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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With the rising cost of food, fuel, and utilities, are you still able to set aside a portion of your paycheck for savings?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com

NSIDE



Deadly Blaze

A pre-dawn fire engulfed a Pennsylvania home Thursday, killing 10 people, mostly children.

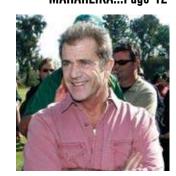
NATION...Page 10



Prayer Vigil

The Human Dignity Movement is leading a prayer vigil this afternoon at the American Memorial Park

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



Mum's the Word

Mel Gibson wants to keep financial information about "The Passion of the Christ" out of the public eye.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Labor staff shocked at arrest of 2 employees. PAGE 2 Rota charter flights for April full—PDI. PAGE 3

Austerity bill goes to Fitial

By AGNES E. DONATO

he administrationbacked austerity bill is now on its way to the governor after the Senate passed it without amendment yesterday.

BILL SUMMARY

- Government shutdown every other Friday, with exemptions
- Unpaid legal holidays
- 11 percent contribution rate to Retirement Fund
- Expanded reprogramming authority for governor

Five senators voted in favor of the bill restoring the austerity Friday program and suspending holiday pay for the three holidays remaining in the this fiscal year.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes abstained, saying he would not vote in favor of any austerity measure until the long-delayed pozzolan mining project in Pagan is implemented.

Senators Luis Crisostimo, Jude Hofschneider, and Felix Mendiola were absent

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to sign the bill into law immediately. The See AUSTERITY on Page 4



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, administers the oath for the newly appointed members of the Public Utilities Commission-from left, Viola Alepuyo, Kyle Calabrese, and Kimberlyn King-Hinds-at the Governor's office on Capital Hill Friday afternoon.

C appointees sworn into office

By AGNES E. DONATO agnes_donato@saipantribune.com

The three appointees to the Public Utilities Commission were sworn into office now has a quorum and can begin con-

yesterday.

With three members—Viola Alepuyo, Kyle Calabrese, and Kimberlyn King-Hinds—the regulatory body ducting business.

"I am happy to administer the oath for the first three members of PUC. This is a true moment in our time," Gov. Benigno

See PUC on Page 4

Neglect, abuse seen in 90,000 infants Neglect most common infant abuse A federal study of non-fatal child abuse of infants found nearly a

By MIKE STOBBE AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—About 1 in 50 infants in the U.S. have been neglected or abused, according to the first national study of the problem in that age group. Nearly a third of the victims were one week old or younger when the maltreatment was reported, government researchers said Thursday. The study focused on chil-

ON THE NET

The CDC publication: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr

We certainly were distressed. It's a picture you don't want to imagine—that this number of infants is being mistreated.

dren younger than 1.

Most of these cases involved neglect, not physical abuse. In the case of the newborns, experts said the data suggests drug abuse by the mother may have been the cause for reports of neglect, but they couldn't be certain.

Maternal drug abuse is often discovered through blood tests while newborns are still in the hospital, CDC researchers and

others said.

"That is the story here," said Dr. Howard Dubowitz, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The researchers counted more than 91,000 infant victims of abuse and neglect during the study period Oct. 1, 2005 to Sept. 30, 2006. About 30,000 of those cases were newborns aged one

See NEGLECT on Page 4

third were one week old or younger when the abuse or neglect occurred. Most of the cases included neglect. Rate of non-fatal maltreatment Out of 1,000 of infants infants ... less than ... 23.2 Of those 1 year old, experienced Oct. 2005 to **7.6** were 1 week Sept. 2006 Type of non-fatal maltreatment of infants less than 1 week old Neglect* 68.5% 17.9 *Includes deprivation of necessities and medica Physical abuse neglect. **Includes infants who were victims of more than one type of maltreatment. Psychological or emotional 0.3 Sexual abuse 0.1 SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Local

Labor staff shocked by arrest of 2 employees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Department of Labor Director Barry Hirshbein said he and everyone in the department were surprised and shocked at the recent arrest of two Labor employees for alleged involvement in bribery and a conspiracy to forge documents.

"This is a big shock to me," said Hirshbein when *Saipan Tribune* asked him for comments on the arrest of Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero and Janel Alepuyo, both employees at Labor's Application Processing Section.

Hirshbein said he worked

closely with Deleon Guerrero and Alepuyo and that everyone in the department were surprised to learn about the incident and the charges.

"I personally know my staff and everyone at Labor are strong believers in the presumption of innocence," he said.

The director said they hope that Deleon Guerrero and Alepuyo are innocent of the charges.

Hirshbein, however, stressed that Labor would never accept any criminal behavior in any of its employees at any time.

"If we had any information to believe that something was going on, we would look into it and do everything we could to stop it," he said.

"There is a presumption of innocence and we do live by that presumption now," the director said.

Hirshbein said that if anyone is found guilty of criminal misconduct involving their activities at Labor and they are convicted of those charges, the department would urge the strongest possible punishment under the circumstances.

The director said he watched Thursday's hearing to tell Deleon Guerrero and Alepuyo that the entire staff at Labor is praying for them and hoping for their well being.

"I'm happy to see that they have strong family support with them," Hirshbein said.

Deleon Guerrero and

Alepuyo, along with six persons, were arrested Tuesday for their alleged involvement in bribery for immigration gain, exploitation of a position of authority,

document fraud, conspiracy to commit document fraud, unlawful employment of aliens and conspiracy to commit unlawful employment of aliens.

EMO warns of high surf activity

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is warning beachgoers to be careful and avoid going into the water, at least until this morning, April 5, due to high surf activity.

The high surf advisory was in affect for the Marianas effective 4pm Friday.

"Northwest swells generated

a few days ago will produce high surf on north facing reefs [Friday night]," EMO said.

The surf is expected to subside below advisory heights Saturday morning.

At this time, expect hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet on north facing exposures, decreasing to

by a storm system east of Japan 5 to 7 feet on Saturday, 5am," a few days ago will produce EMO said.

EMO is advising the public and beachgoers to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches as wind and wave conditions support dangerous rip currents. Rip currents are life threatening to anyone entering the water. (EMO)

(4)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, hereby giving notice that the State Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2008 2nd General membership meeting on April 9, 2008 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency Saipan at 10:00AM. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Welcoming
- II. Preliminary Items
 - A. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - B. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- III. Report
 - A. Chairperson
 - B. Trip Reports
 - C. OVR Director

Fiscal Status

- IV. Old Business
 - A. Membership Issues
 - B. Vacancy Status
- V. New Business
 - A. 2008 Resource Allocation Plan
 - B. Logo, SILC's Awareness materials & Activities/Website
 - C. 2008 Calendar for Meetings (including Rota and Tinian)
 - D. NCIL Conference
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Jerry McVicar SILC Chairperson

> c/o Office of Vocational Rehabilitation P.O. Box 506296 SAIPAN, MP 96950 TEL: (670)322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536 TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-MAIL: Voc.Rehab@Saipan.Com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Koblerville Elementary School announcements

Kindergarten Registration for Koblerville Elementary School will begin on Tuesday April 8, 2008. Applicants will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration forms for ongoing KoES students for SY 08-09 will be sent home along with a notification on any required documents that need to be updated. Parents are being asked to come into the school and turn in these

documents as soon as possible.

The next PTSA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 8, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. There will be a performance for parents led by the school's first grade students. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. (*PR*)

MHS Class of '78 meeting

There will be a meeting for the MHS Class of 1978 on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 7pm, at Snack 'N

Go (King's Plaza) in Dandan, across the Joeten Building in Dandan. Should you have any questions, contact Elizabeth Salas Balajadia at 898-9535. (PR)

Navy funds reforestation of Masso Reservoir

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy has officially established an agreement with the Government of Guam to fund the reforestation of the Masso Reservoir

See COMMUNITY on Page 4

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health Women, Infants and Children Program Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for it's patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

Rota charter flights for April full—PDI

The general manager of Pacific Development Inc. yesterday said the start of charter flights to Rota will go as scheduled at the end of the month.

Yoichi Matsumura said that PDI, as well as its mother company in Japan, Kinki Nippon Tourist, are hyped up for the start of charter flights to the CN-MI's southernmost island.

"All the three Rota charter flights are full and Japan as well

'maiden' flight going on April 26," he said in an e-mail to the Saipan Tribune.

The tourism industry on Rota received a boost in February 2008 when it was announced that KNT said that it would bring in 40 new charter flights to Rota in the next couple of years.

The Rota charter flights are expected to bring in some 8,000 tourists to Rota in about

as Rota is very excited to get the a year. KNT has chartered Continental Airlines to bring in the new Rota flights. Continental Airlines is planning to use its 155-seater Boeing 737 aircraft to service the island.

> The inaugural charter flights to Rota arranged by KNT will take place during Japan's Golden Week, beginning on April 26 and it will run through May 6—daily flights for a total of 10 days. (Mark Rabago)

'2 defendants in bold robbery deserve significant jail terms'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A Superior Court judge believes that people who rob an establishment even it has surveillance cameras and a security guard must be given significant jail terms.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona said such bold conduct deserves a sufficient prison term to deter defendants as well as others from attempting the same crime again.

cade robbers Anthony DLG. Campos and Patrick Camacho Ito to spend two years in prison without the possibility of parole or early release.

The judge sentenced Campos to 10 years in prison, all

suspended, except for the first 24 months and with credit for nine days he has already served. Ito was sentenced to six years

Manglona

in prison, all suspended, except for the first 24 months and with credit for nine days he has already served.

Campos and Ito will be placed on probation for five years after release from jail. They will be required to each pay a \$500 fine and \$100 court assessment fee. The two were also ordered to perform 200 hours of community work service.

The defendants were ordered to pay their pro-rata share of the total restitution of \$4,045 or \$1,011.25 each to Golden Poker in Afetnas

In addition, Campos will be required to pay \$368 in restitution to Jenny's Mart in Dandan.

Campos was directed to write a letter of apology to the victims, Muhammad Omark Farul and Ying Li.

Campos, 21, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery. He is the third of the four defendants in this case to enter a guilty plea.

In her order, Manglona said Campos was 20 years old when he committed this serious crime of robbery and was the oldest of the group.

Manglona said that robbery is punishable by a maximum term of 20 years of imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000 because the defendants or an

immediate force, and actually used a dangerous weapon to commit the crime.

The judge said although this is the defendants' first adult criminal conviction, it is alarming that it is a serious felony offense.

According to the detective's report, Manglona said, Campos was the person who confronted the security guard with a crowbar at Golden Poker last year.

Campos directed the guard Manglona ordered poker ar- and a customer to a corner

while his two accomplices entered the cashier's booth. He committed these acts in a poker establishment that had surveillance cameras, Manglona said.

The government and Campos origi-

nally agreed to a negotiated plea term of six years imprisonment, all suspended except for 20 months without the possibility of parole.

But Manglona rejected the plea agreement because the unsuspended prison sentence is less than Ito's, even though Campos's disposition will also dismiss the second robbery case he committed against a small store (Jenny's Mart) only six months after the first case, and while he was released on bail for this poker room robbery case.

The parties renegotiated their plea agreement to incorporate Manglona's concerns and increased the unsuspended prison term to 24 months, making it the same as Ito, as well as increasing the suspended prison term to eight years.

For these reasons, Manglona said, she found the parties' amended plea agreement terms reasonable.

"The 24 months prison term without parole has the equivalent effect of a six-year sentence to serve, but receiving the benefit of being paroled by the Board of Parole," the judge noted.

Furthermore, she added, the increased suspended term from four years to eight years will serve as a strong deterrence on Campos, giving him reason to refrain from committing serious crimes in the future because

accomplice threatened to use it subjects him to a long prison sentence if he fails to comply with any of his conditions of suspended sentence.

With respect to the 20-yearold Ito, Manglona said the defendant was only 19 when he committed this serious crime of robbery.

According to the detective's report, Ito was the person who broke the cashier's booth and took the money.

He committed these acts in a poker establishment that had a security guard present and surveillance cameras, Manglona said, citing the detective's re-

For these reasons, the judge said, she found the parties' negotiated plea terms reasonable.

CONGRATULATIONS

New Happy Market Raffle Winners

NEW HAPPY MARKET GARAPAN GRAND PRIZE WINNER: TELLY OLKERIIL

New Happy Market is my kind of store because its prices are reasonable and you can get everything that you need at one stop shop. In addition, the store owner gives you a chance to win back some of your money through monthly raffle, just like me. Believe it or not but I won \$300 today. Praise the Lord and thank you very much!

NEW HAPPY MARKET GUALO RAI GRAND PRIZE WINNER: GINA TOMOKANE

New Happy Market is a great store to shop for most of your necessities. Prices are reasonable and location is great and convenient.

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Alleged burglar of tourists' car arrested

Police arrested yesterday morning a man who allegedly burglarized the car of a tourist family at Suicide Cliff in Marpi.

Calistro Crisostimo Jr., 24, was arrested for burglary and theft. A \$50,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty.

Crisostimo was taken before Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon.

Hur Kyung Hoi, his wife, mother, and two daughters positively identified Crisostimo as the operator of a get-way pickup truck.

The victims also identified the defendant as the person who allegedly threatened them with a rock while they were in their rental car.

The tourists lost a bag containing passports, IBM laptop, \$300 cash, and

Detective George Fleming David stated in his report that on Wednesday afternoon, police received a report about a burglary incident.

David said investigation showed that while Hoi and his family were at Suicide Cliff at 4:20pm, Hoi saw a man within the rear passenger seats of their rental car. The man took the bag of Hoi's wife and ran toward a parked pickup truck.

Hoi immediately informed his family about the burglary. They then chased the getaway truck with license plate ABS-453.

The truck proceeded to a dirt road in the Marpi area. When Hoi parked his car alongside the truck, he noticed that the person who took the bag was the driver. The driver was with a passenger, who was using a newspaper to

The driver got off the truck, asked "What's wrong?" then picked up a big rock. He attempted to throw the rock at Hoi, who was still inside the car.

The operator then went back inside the truck and took off.

Hoi described the driver as six feet tall, skinny, and with a missing tooth in the lower jaw.

Detective David said that on Thursday he went to Crisostimo's house in Koblerville and talked to him and his sister, Annie.

David said that Crisostimo and Annie admitted they were in Marpi on the day in question and that they had noticed a red car with tourists following them.

David said that on the same day, the victims arrived at the Department of Public Safety's Criminal

Investigation Division where they identified Crisostimo in a photo line-up as the driver.

Crisostimo has two pending criminal cases, according to court records. (Ferdie de la Torre)

DUI, sobriety checkpoints next week

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic section will be conducting DUI/ sobriety checkpoints on Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, next week.

On April 11, the first setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by Liberty Plaza. This operation will start at about 8pm and will end around 9:15pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road by PTI. This will start at about 10:30pm and will end at 11:45pm.

The next day, April 12, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau by the late Dr. Kaipat's residence. This operation will begin around 8:30pm and will end at about 9:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan

Monsignor Guerrero Road by CUC Waterloo. This operation will begin around 10:30pm and will terminate at about 11:45pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Juan C. Mendiola or Sgt. Thomas A. Blas at 664-9085. (DPS)

27 used cars sold in March

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers market in March 2008 and gives the Association reported that they sold 27 secondhand cars last month.

The 27 used cars sold in March pushes year-to-date secondhand car sales to 110.

Joeten Motors led all auto dealerships in used car sales in March 2008 with 10 units sold. That figure represents 37 percent of the market and gives the Oleai company 37 used cars sold for the year (33.6 percent of all purchases).

Triple J Motors was one used car shy of Joeten Motors' performance with nine secondhand cars disposed of last month.

That represents 33.3 percent of the

Garapan company 38 for the year, tops for CADA (34.5 for the market so far this year).

New car sales leader Microl Corp. finds itself in unfamiliar territory, lagging behind Joeten Motors and Triple J Motors in the used car segment with eight units sold in March 2008.

That is a mere 29.6 percent share of the market and gives the Oleai company 35 secondhand units sold for the year (31.8 percent of the market).

Joeten Motors is the distributor for Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia. Microl Corp. sells Toyota and Chevrolet. Triple J Motors peddles Mazda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki.

CADA reported last Wednesday that new car sales totaled only 52 in March 2008 after 68 units were sold in the same period last year.

Despite the 23-percent decline in car sales last month, CADA is not alarmed, pointing out that compared to last year's January-March figures, CADA's new vehicle sales actually are up by eight units during the first three months of 2008.

The March report from CADA showed that automobile sales in the first quarter of the current year have a total of 190 units, compared to 182 units sold during the same period in 2007. (Mark Rabago)

COMMUNITY

From Page 4

area in Piti.

The agreement reflects the Navy's cooperative effort to reduce sediment runoff into the reservoir and protect the island's coral reefs during wharf improvement projects. The Navy will allocate \$235,000 under the Masso Reservoir agreement.

Capt. Paul Fuligni, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, and Gov. Felix Camacho signed the Masso Cooperative Agreement March 31 at the Governor's Complex in Adelup. Rear Adm. Bill French, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, was also present during the signing. (USN)

USDA OKs bio-control release

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is making available to the public a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), together with the underlying final environmental assessment, for Field Release of Heteropsylla spinulosa (Homoptera: Psyllidea), a nonindigenous insect for control of Giant Sensitive Plant, Mimosa diplotricha (Mimosaceae), in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The documents are available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant health/ea/biocontrol weeds.shtml or by contacting Robert S. Johnson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236. (USDA)

NEGLECT

From Page 1

week or younger.

The information came from a national database of cases verified by protective services agencies in 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Other studies have looked at national child abuse and neglect cases, but this is believed to be the first to focus on infants, said study co-author Rebecca Leeb, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The results mirror what a study in Canada found, said Leeb, a CDC epidemiologist.

"We certainly were distressed" by the study's results, said Ileana Arias, director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

"It's a picture you don't want to imagine—that this number of infants is being mistreated," Arias added.

Only about 13 percent of the newborn cases were counted as physical abuse, meaning the large majority involved neglect. Federal officials define neglect as a failure to meet a child's basic needs, including housing, clothing, feeding and access to medical care.

The counted cases did not include new parents stumbling their way through breast-feeding or making other rookie mistakes.

"Things like abandonment and newborn drug addiction would qualify as neglect, not things like parents learning how to be parents," Leeb said.

Medical professionals identified about 65 percent of the maltreated newborns to protective services staff. The others came from law enforcement, relatives, friends, neighbors and from protective services staff.

The neglect cases include situations in which medical professionals conclude that a child got sick or didn't correctly develop because parents didn't get recommended medical care. Those cases were not necessarily life-threatening, noted David Finkelhor, who directs the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New

Finkelhor said the cases might in part reflect families who don't have adequate health insurance. The study's authors said they don't have information to verify that theory.

Both Finkelhor and Dubowitz have worked with the same database the researchers used. But Dubowitz pointed to data showing that most of the neglect cases in newborns were reported in the first two days of life.

That is a time when results from blood tests of mother and child come back and are often shared with protective services. Such tests would indicate whether the mother was abusing drugs.

However, Dubowitz said data on potential explanations behind neglect cases is skimpy, so it is difficult to draw conclusions.

But more prenatal care and drug treatment services would seem like a wise way to address the problem, he

The study didn't include data on fatal abuse and neglect. But federal officials said about 500 infants under age 1 died of abuse or neglect during the study period.

The CDC collaborated on the study with the federal Administration for Children and Families. The research was published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Even the appointment of King-Hinds was marred by controversy. Rep. Stan-

ley T. Torres, one of the lawmakers who oppose King-Hinds' nomination, resigned as chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications after majority of the House members voted

From Page 1

R. Fitial said.

Shortly after taking their oath, the new PUC members met with the governor and Anthony Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities

Corporation

The commissioners' first task is to establish rates for CUC.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes said the administration is hopeful that the commission will act quickly to set rates that will ensure full-cost recovery for the Commonwealth's utility.

"We expect the commissioners to set

rates objectively, impartially, without flexibility to adjust the fuel component of regard to partisan concerns—rates that are fair to both the consumers and the utility," Reyes said.

Residential power rates have rolled back to 17 cents per kWh—as set by the Legislature—after emergency regulations adopted by CUC expired in March 2008. The regulations had provided CUC the power rates over the past four months. The creation of a utilities commission

has hit numerous obstacles since the PUC Act was enacted in 2006. The administration faced hardship in finding appointees who have the necessary expertise, but none of the familial or professional ties that may cause conflict of interest.

to confirm her appointment.

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

bill was introduced in the House of Representatives at his request.

Under the bill, the CNMI government will shut down every other Friday from April 18, 2008 through the end of the current fiscal year. The Public School System and Northern Marianas College will remain open on austerity Fridays to prevent disruption of classes. Also exempted are government agencies normally required to open on legal holidays and to maintain a 24-hour schedule.

The bill will allow the government not to pay its employees the legal holi-

day rate on Memorial Day (March 26), Liberation Day (July 4), and Labor Day (September 1).

Further, the government will be authorized to pay only 11 percent of the total payroll to the NMI Retirement Fund. The actuary-recommended rate of 36.77 percent.

The bill will also allow the governor

to reprogram nearly \$6 million from various revenue sources outside the General Fund.

The measures are expected to raise approximately \$17 million for government operations.

Fitial had asked the Legislature to enact the so-called "interim fiscal measures" amid dwindling government revenues and the lack of an updated government budget.

"As you well know, our Commonwealth is currently facing great financial challenges and these financial challenges cannot be properly addressed by the executive branch alone. The executive branch needs the support and assistance of the Legislature," the governor said.

NMI students garner awards for dramatic arts

The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands handed out awards to 15 CNMI high school students and 10 CNMI middle school students at its annual awards banquet on April 1, 2008. Other students from among the more than three dozen who participated in the year's competitions attended as well.

This year, in the high school division, Saipan Southern students walked away with the highest total of TWPI awards, while Marianas High School students garnered the most first place awards. In the middle school division, Mount Carmel students won the highest total of TWPI awards, with Cha-Cha Oceanview coming in second.

While most people in the CNMI have heard of NFL, NJFL, and PGFC, the TWPI acronym remains unheralded. This is changing, however, as more and more students from both public and private schools vie for TWPI awards.

TWPI is the honor society for

students active in dramatic arts and is organized as a chapter of the International Thespian Society. Officially known as Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands, TWPI has middle and high school students actively participating in productions and competitions.

Both the high school and middle school divisions have vearlong competitions held in conjunction with and supported by The National Forensic League. The competition categories for both junior and senior thespian divisions include monologue, duet acting, solo musical theatre, and mime. The high school (senior thespian) division also has competitions in technical theatre (set design, costume design and film-making) as well.

Top award winners will have the opportunity to compete at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska, in June 2008. Student members of TWPI have, in the past, performed at the ITS Festival



The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands held an awards banquet on April 1, 2008. They hold year-long competitions, much like the forensics competitions, also under the auspices of PSS. Picture shows the monologue winners.

and earned top national honors in competition, scholarships awards, and college admis-

Award winners are as fol-

HIGH SCHOOL THESPIANS:

MONOLOGUE

First, Johnna Lubuguin (SSHS)

Second, Ryan Gutierrez (SSHS)

Third, Tori Brown (SAEFS) Fourth, Ann Mariel Flores (SSHS)

Matthew Fifth, Wheat (MHS)

DUET ACTING

First, Ryan Gutierrez and Richelle Denora (SSHS)

Second, Sung Yul Baik and Moon Hyo Lee (MHS) Third, Nicole Ichihara and

Ann Mariel Flores (SSHS) Fourth, Merey Len Denora and Vira Star Cucal (SSHS)

Fifth, Matthew Wheat & Castro (MHS)

SOLO MUSICAL:

First, Miki Dela Cruz (KHS)

Second, Tori Brown (SAEFS)

MIME:

First, Sung Yul Baik and Moon Hyo Lee (MHS)

Second, Merey Len Denora and Jan Kimberly Alcantara (SSHS)

TECHNICAL THEATER: Set Design: M. Pangelinan

(MHS), first place Costume Design: Kyung Min Park (MHS), first place

Film: Matthew (MHS), first place

JUNIOR THESPIANS:

Monologue: Reese Brown (SAEFS), first place

Duet Acting:

First, Royze Banados and Dayanara Flores (HJHS) Second, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero and Mariel Ferrer (MCS)

Third, Akeiko Dela Cruz and Zalika Joyner (CCO)

Solo Musical Theatre:

First, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero (MCS)

Second, Akeiko Dela Cruz (CCO)

Third, Mariel Ferrer (MCS) Fourth, Victoria Camacho (MCS)

Mime: Sung Woo Baik and Victor Sablan (MCS), first place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The duet winners mug for the camera.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Public Utility Commission, hereby gives notice that the Public Utility Commission will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at the Multipurpose Center Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

AGENDA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order Roll Call
- Installation of New Members Oath of Office Kimberly King-Hinds
 - Kyle Calabrese
 - Viola Alepuyo
- Adoption of Interim Rules Adoption of Agenda
- Election of Officers
- Terms of Commissioners

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Commonwealth Telecommunication Commission Α. Property Inventory
- PUC Office Space
- Existing Bank Accounts
 - Initial meeting with Commonwealth Utilities

Discussion of PUC Initial Staffing Requirements

- Corporation E.
- Request for Proposal Legal Counsel EXECUTIVE SESSION MISCELLANEOUS
 - Announcements
 - Next Meeting В. Adjournment
- /s/ VIOLA ALEPUYO COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



6 SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008

Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't discount Paulson

reasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., a smart man, must have known all along that little would come of his plans to streamline and modernize oversight of the U.S. financial system during the 10 months remaining in President Bush's term in office. Regulatory bodies that potentially would be "reformed" out of business, including state insurance regulators, are already fighting the 3-day-old proposal. Lobbyists for the banking and insurance industries, largely left out of the planning process, are too.

The proposal is also encountering pushback on Capitol Hill, where Congress, understandably, would prefer to focus on the subprime mortgage crisis—a pressing problem—than to engage in theoretical debates about long-term governance. A period of debilitating financial crisis, verging on recession, indeed seems like a crazy time to start talking about dismantling and reconstituting regulatory agencies (especially when those agencies' hands-off approach arguably caused the crisis).

But reforming federal financial regulation, a 1930s-era patchwork of agencies with overlapping jurisdictions, is a good idea. And for Paulson to have waited until times were flush and no one was paying attention to bring up the subject would have been a surefire recipe for failure.

Moving forward, of course, will require Congress to evaluate the merits of the ideas in the 218-page proposal, on which Treasury officials worked for more than a year. An ideal regulatory system would organize oversight by function, making sure all dealers in securities, for example, were regulated uniformly (today, a bank that sells bonds is regulated differently than a brokerage that does). It also would empower an entity—perhaps the Federal Reserve, perhaps some other body—to act proactively and look out for the systemic forces that create dangerous economic bubbles (such as, in the case of the current mortgage crisis, the market's failure to correctly price bond risk).

Congress should carefully consider Paulson's Wall Street resume—he's a former chief executive of Goldman Sachs—when it discusses financial regulation reform over the months to come. As the subprime meltdown has demonstrated so painfully, Wall Street's interests often don't align with Main Street's. But legislators needn't dismiss all of the secretary's ideas outright. To the extent that Congress can use Paulson's plan as a springboard to improving oversight, it—and the lame-duck Treasury secretary—will have done good work.

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Unity, hope, strength, and perseverance

By WENDY L. DOROMAL

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the message that will be read during today's prayer vigil that will be held at the American Memorial Park.

nity was the message in December as thousands of us gathered in this very spot to support federalization. People representing CNMI residents, guest workers, businesses, and people of all nationalities, cultures, and origins joined together in a demonstration of unity. People came from neighboring islands and from the other side of the world to participate in the Unity March. They united with one voice, one heart, and one common dream. Everyone shared the dream of a united and prosperous CNMI. That dream can only be achieved through mutual respect, collaboration, and social and political justice. We must keep that dream alive, and stay united and focused on victory, which is within our grasp!

Gandhi said, "Unity, to be real, must stand the severest strain without breaking." I believe that the unity of the guest workers is real and can withstand any strain. At this time, unity among the guest workers and some of their advocates is being tested. Unity does not mean that we must always share the same opinions. It does not mean we must walk the same paths to get to the final destination. Unity does not mean that we must trust the same people. It does not mean that we must always agree. However, for unity to survive and to be strengthened despite trials and tests, we must respect each other's opinions, and agree to disagree while demonstrating tolerance and understanding for diverse views and conflicting ideas.

Over the last two decades many obstacles have been tossed in our path by opponents, yet we overcame them and stayed the course. We must not allow differences among our ranks to become obstacles that fragment our unity, and cause detours in achieving our goals. Hold fast to unity!

Hope was the message at the November Prayer Rally when hundreds gathered on this spot to pray for federalization and permanent status for long-term guest workers. Hope that after the struggle, there will be better days, and the realization of social and political rights for the guest workers of the CNMI. Hope that after federalization, the U.S. government will set forth a federal plan for perma-

nent status for long-term guest workers. Hope that parents of U.S. citizen children will find a clear pathway to U.S. citizenship. Hope that CNMI residents and legislators will embrace federalization and work hand in hand with federal officials to establish a smooth transition and policies that will benefit all. Hope is what turns dreams into reality. Keep hope forever in our hearts!

Strength was the message at the August March when hundreds of guest workers and their U.S. citizen children were greeted by Rep. Donna Christensen at the Fisherman's Memorial and then marched in the rain to American Memorial Park. You found the strength to stand up to detractors, opponents, and those who spoke untruths. Strength to speak up to Governor Fitial when he declared that all of the demonstrators outside the courthouse were "illegals" and would be deported. Strength to oppose P.L. 15-108, which suppresses due process, and contains an inhumane exit provision. Strength to write letters to the U.S. Congress to appeal for status, justice, and basic rights. Stand strong always!

Perseverance was the message at the July Prayer Rally held in the church parking lot. Perseverance in getting over 4,000 signatures for petitions to the U.S. Congress. Perseverance in demanding payment for unpaid judgments. Perseverance in demanding rights in labor cases, criminal cases, and EEOC cases. Perseverance in fighting for decades for federalization and guest workers' rights. Persevere until victory is in hand!

Applaud your unity, hope, strength, and perseverance in your ongoing struggle to gain social and political rights, and status! Social justice cannot be achieved merely through legislation. It is achieved through changing people's hearts, through understanding, and through education. Stay the course until social justice is as accepted as taking a breath. Stay united in your fight for federalization. Don't despair; never lose hope. Stand strong for justice for yourselves and your children. Persevere in your fight for status, political and social rights, liberty, democracy, and freedom until the fight is won. It has been a long journey, and I will be with you until the summit is reached. I believe the end of this difficult journey is very near!

I extend my love and best wishes to each of you.

Wendy L. Doromal is a former CNMI teacher and a human rights activist helping nonresident workers fight for improved status in the CNMI.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number **EDITORIAL POLICY** of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A day in a metropolitan Jiangsu county

n one of the commercial nodes of downtown Sheyang, a county in the Jiangsu plains west of the Yellow Sea and north of Shanghai, is a room-sized bronze statue of the laughing Buddha. It is meant to signify prosperity, the commercial type pursued when the county was at the height of its ambition and clarity of vision a decade ago.

Near the huge bus terminal being built in the outskirt of town, and the new park that would miniaturize American Memorial Park in Saipan, is a huge solid globe. On one side is a figure that looks like a barefoot Achilles of the Greek pantheon of heroes. It is Houyi the archer shooting nine suns with his arrow without the sandaled flighty winged feet of the popular Greek god-warrior. Atop this planetary symbol are four flying red-crowned cranes, which are famous habitués along the Sheyang estuary.

In the last decade, Sheyang combined the spirits of the Buddha and Houji and joined the rest of China in vigorously pushing for its industrial development. Claiming to be the center of the textile industry in China, its residents were recruited worldwide to staff the transient garment factories that were adjusting across national boundaries while the markets of the industrialized nations sought cheap production means for its sartorial needs.

The Sheyang County Tianhe Foreign Labor Services Co., Ltd. (China) brochure claims success in human resource placements to many places like Japan, Korea, Singapore, Australia, Madagascar, Jordan, Namibia, Mexico, Canada, and yes, including "Saipan of the USA." In a mythologizing act to bolster motivation, THGJ had these lines in Chinese characters for itself and its workers:

World is wonderful for my existence While my lofty sentiments come from the world The new sun is rising from the east Just like the exuberant and charming Tianhe.. Staff is turning their blueprint into practice Their most beautiful pictures and poems ... a bridge over the world Lead your dream of working overseas a reality.

This institution's deeds on Saipan is what brought this resident walking the cold sidewalks of this sun-forsaken region between the Huang He and the Chiang Jiang rivers on the tail end of winter. Whether authorized or not, it is clear to this writer that one of Tianhe's staff members ran a recruitment scheme that brought garment factory workers into Saipan without legally bringing them in as such.

With contacts on Saipan, workers were recruited from many attracted to the Saipan garment factories that numbered four times more than was needed. The abundant supply of workers willing to work hard for the privilege of coming to work on Saipan were prepared to dearly pay for it.

A word of context, or, more precisely, how did this cleric turned 6th grade Social Studies *lao shi* who ran a Resource Center for the Methodist Church on Saipan, get to explore the underbelly of our once favored island industry? The Skinner law firm, and later, Pam Brown, used to refer contract workers to the Center for sanctuary assistance. One of the referred Chinese worker groups came from Sheyang.

The five members in the group were legitimate workers who took their employer to task for not fulfilling contracted obligations. The Center hosted them for a month until they settled their case and transferred to another employer. The intricate recruitment scams perpetuated amongst the unwary became public through workers like them. To begin with, the pitch was invariably to work in America, with some receiving images as inaccurate as "Saipan being a suburb of Los Angeles."

With the skinheads collecting \$30,000 for the privilege of being smuggled into the industrialized West, preferably England, Australia, Canada and the USA, paying close to \$10K to move to "Saipan of the USA" was on the cheap. Two attempts of Fujian boat people not too long ago tried to seek asylum in Guam and were diverted to the CNMI where federal immigration laws were presumed not to apply!

To circumvent standard procedures, recruits were brought in as restaurant workers, commercial cleaners and other allowed designations. Once on island, they were hired as garment factory workers without benefit of labor rights and administrative paper trail. Remunerations By JAIME VERGARA Special to the Saipan Tribune



were made in cash. During boom times, everyone was happy as workers, supervisors, and local connivers all shared in the benefits of the unofficial pies. During lean times, the pinch hurt both the legitimate and illegitimate contract workers. Their handlers sanctimoniously distanced themselves in public. In any case, making turnovers more frequent in garment factories was advantageous to recruiters. Consequently, even when the factories were already closing, the recruitment efforts continued and even accelerated. To some, the money was no longer in the factory, it was in the exploitation of the workers.

Contract offers in Sheyang were for three years. Workers did not know that contracts on Saipan were valid for only a year. The cost was 60K Yuan in China, and another 10K Yuan on Saipan when workers arrived. Workers paid for travel and in-transit costs. This payment scheme applied to the legitimate factory workers, with most of the proceeds benefiting the Chinese recruiter. For the fraudulent employment, the cost is the same, save that the 10K Yuan was paid in China, the 60K Yuan on Saipan. Obviously, there were more palms to be greased on island with the latter.

At \$3.05/hour in 1998, a worker took 410 regular days to earn enough income without deductions to equal recruitment costs. A worker thus understood that in three years, only the overtime pay was income; regular pay retired debt. To stay longer than three years was thus the object of aspiring workers. Not to do so meant indebtedness, and since kin back home usually put up the initial recruitment fee, the loss of face was a result as well.

There are other consequences of the above employment scheme that was paramount in this visit to the Jiangsu plains and will be explored in subsequent articles.

Letters to the Editor

United we stand, divided we act

Dear fellow guest workers:

Our quest for a better status here in the CNMI is once again on top of our mind; forums, meetings and similar events are very much alive. Federalization and the residency status of long time guest workers is always on top of conversations at Sunday barbecue parties, beach meetings, birthday parties and other related gatherings. Some say "yes" to federalization, "no" to permanent residency" while others say "yes" to both federalization and permanent residency, whichever comes first.

One group gathered to lay down their views on the issue of permanent residency, bringing with them a team of expert, lawyers, leaders of different organizations, leaders of other nationalities and local leaders of indigenous people. They are trying to convey the pros and cons of the permanent residency to long-time guest workers while patiently waiting for federalization to come. This group understands the current situation of long-time guest workers, who spent drives along Beach Road toward Susupe and minutes later they're all along one Carlito J. Marquez Puerto Rico, Saipan

half of their lives without exiting only to find themselves leaving the island due to unsecured immigration status. A local leader says we are not against guest workers, especially those who had been here for more than 10 years. "We are in democratic islands; we respect everyone on the island because we belong to one community," he said.

One group chooses to avoid the issue of permanent residency because of legal matters under the CNMI's Constitution. They said that "anyone offering residency is trying to fool the workers with this scheme. They would likely offer residency as a ploy in exchange for workers' support in delaying the federalization bill." This group is discouraging guest workers from trusting people who conducted a meeting secretly, those not willing to state who they represent.

Permanent residency advocates drives along Chalan Pale Arnold toward Susupe while the federalization group

route going to Susupe: One place, one road, one common goal on different vehicles. United we stand; divided we act but we have a common goal.

I belong to the "others," those who choose whichever comes first because both federalization and permanent residency will save us from leaving the island against our will. Federalization and permanent residency does not give us a guarantee that everyone will qualify. Permanent residency is a local initiative that can be acted upon through amendments of the existing laws or through immigration rules and regulations governing the status of foreign workers. Federalization is miles away from the CNMI and the same is true, there is no guarantee that everyone is qualified for H-Visas.

Both ways are acceptable so, let us join our hands together, because together we will succeed.

The truth and nothing but the truth

A "free" government consultant and a member of the Legislature are looking into possibilities of improving the status of long term alien residents. There are so many speculations and so many questions. But the most important question guest workers have to answer is "do we need this and could this be of help to me?"

A certain group of guest workers never stop seeking and looking for possible solutions to prevent the long-term alien residents from leaving the island during the transitional period before the federal government will finally take over in the CNMI.

Common sense would say that anyone who would offer such NMI residency knows that there's no provisions in the CNMI constitution that prohibits amending or repealing any provisions.

A certain group of guest workers that is trying to look and explore the possibilities of this proposal don't have any intention of going against federalization but rather is only seeking immediate help that most ordinary guest workers need.

The possible proposal for long term

alien workers for NMI residency could be used as a tool to show the Feds that long-term alien workers are truly needed in the CNMI and should be given improved status, since U.S. Senate deleted this in their pending bill.

I would encourage all guest workers not to stop seeking and believing in all possibilities even as we are all excited to see that finally federalization in the CNMI will become a reality!

Malou Berueco Gualo Rai, Saipan

Let the people decide

If the House and Senate can't decide where to hold the venue for the State of the Commonwealth Address, then I propose that the decision be given to the people of the CNMI. After all, we voted for you guys to represent us, not disappoint us. So let's make this very simple and have us, the ordinary people, decide for you guys in the Legislature.

So here is my suggestion: Let us kindly ask Rep. Joseph Camacho to set up a polling place on his Web site for the public to place their ballots as to the location of this public event. The voting should end on April 18 so that gives us a week's preparation before the event.

Although I think it is a waste of our time, it is the only solution to the power struggle between the two branches of government. This should remind the people that they do in fact have the voice as to where the venue for our public address event should be.

Personally, I would rather have it at the Civic Center beach area on a weekend where I can have a barbecue and a drink while I relax and listen to our leaders present their reports like our forefathers used to do traditionally. I prefer tradition over modern accommodations.

Enrique K. Seman Kagman, Saipan

Are you for real?

Payless Fridays and no paid holidays for the CNMI...wow! Does the government really save thousands of dollars by doing this? Who uses these funds then? CUC? Retirement? General Fund?

Kudos to the four Musketeers who did not vote for the passage of the bill. What is so bad about Rep. Tina Sablan's proposal? I thought it was GREAT. It's ironic how we read, hear, and see from the media that our government is really "strapped for cash" and yet they still manage to lease government vehicles. And let's not forget the mobile phones! What's next... rental homes for elected officials?

I suggest YOU, the rest of you elected officials try and come up with a better solutions. If giving up your car leases and mobile phones can make a difference, then do so. Good example, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider uses his own vehicle to work, even when he was in office years, years ago. Why can't you do the same? Remember we are watching you!

Luella I. Marciano Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage:

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲85° ▼75°

Guam and Rota

Palau

Yap

Chuuk

Pohnpei

Kosrae

Majuro

Auckland

Hong Kong

Los Angeles

Melbourne

New York

Honolulu

London

Manila

Miami

Osaka

Paris

Pusan

Rome

Salem

Seoul

Tokyo

Beijing

Micronesia

Cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy

Partly Sunny

T'Storms

Showers

Cloudy

Showers

Cloudy

Cloudy

T'showers

Rain

Around The Globe

Partly Sunny ▲88 ▼77

Partly Sunny ▲88 ▼77

Mostly Cloudy ▲63 ▼50

Mostly Sunny ▲84 ▼70

Mostly Sunny ▲70 ▼54

Mostly Sunny ▲60 ▼46

Mostly Cloudy ▲54 ▼35

Partly Sunny ▲63 ▼50

Mostly Cloudy ▲60 ▼45

Mostly Cloudy ▲ 51 ▼39

Mostly Sunny ▲63 ▼43

Mostly Sunny ▲64 ▼47



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲85° ▼75°

▲86 **▼**77

▲88 **▼**79

▲86 ▼73

▲90 **▼**77

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▲84 ▼74

▲50 **▼**36

▲68 **▼**54

▲92 ▼76

▲84 ▼73

▲59 **▼**41

▲61 ▼43



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲84° ▼75°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼76°

WAKE

MAJURO

170

Yesterdav's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

130

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from a weak circulation well southwest of Palau at 3N130E to 1N145E. Scattered showers are occurring south of a line from 6N130E to 2N147E, well south of Palau and Yap. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei, between the equator and 5N from 150E to 160E.

Tides										
Saipan Harbor										
12:51AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet								
6:58AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet								
1:21PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet								
7:21PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet								

San Francisco Mostly Sunny ▲61 ▼46

Washington, DC Showers

ı	Sun	nrise/Sunset						
	Today	6:10AM	6:30PM	Too				
ľ	Sunday	6:09AM	6:30PM	Sur				
	Monday	6:08AM	6:30PM	Мо				
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	Wednesday	6:07AM	6:31PM	We				
The state of the s	Sunday Monday Tuesday	6:09AM 6:08AM 6:08AM	6:30PM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Su Mo				

Today	5:07AM	5:36PM
Sunday	5:48AM	6:35PM
Monday	6:33AM	7:37PM
Tuesday	7:22AM	8:42PM
Wednesday	8:17AM	9:46PM

POHNPE

160

KOSRAE

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

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- \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008 **ARRIVALS DEPARTURES** Saipan-Rota Rota-Saipan CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3 4 7 CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6 Saipan-Guam **Guam-Saipan** CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1.2.5.6 CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota 1,2,6 via Rota CO9601 CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily 3.4.5.7 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm 7:20pm Daily Daily 10:20nm Daily CO9599 9:30pm CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily Saipan-Narita Narita-Saipan NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily Nagoya Saipan-Osaka Osaka-Saipan NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily Saipan-Nagoya Nagoya-Saipan NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily Manila-Saipan Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3 Saipan-Seoul Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30nm O7 604 2:10am 6:00am 2,4,6,7 2:40am 6:30am 2.3.4.5.6.7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 Saipan-Busan **Busan-Saipan** OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7 OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7 Guam-Manila **Manila-Guam** CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 and Koror CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 and Yap CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7 PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China: NW: Northwest: JO: Japan Airlines: OZ: Asiana: MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune s not responsible for any changes in the schedule.

Hongkong-Guam

Rota-Guam

CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

ETA Frequency

Guam-Hongkong

Guam-Rota

CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency	Airline	EID E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-Ro	ota			FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Sai	pan			FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-R	lota			FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Gua	am			FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Sa	inan w/	connecti	na
Guam-Ro	ota			flights to			ııg -
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	inglits to	nota or t	auaiii	
Rota-Sai	pan			FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Saipan-R	lota			FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Rota-Gu	am			FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Saipan-T				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am

Korean Center

Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6nm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am. 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday:

San Roque Parish

Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

≅ PROTESTANT ⋈

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Vednesday Prayer and Healing Night:

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm

Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,

Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday:

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Call 235-0545 for directions

GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday:

7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville

Sunday Services

8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Family Worship 3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at Parsonage 7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church

9:00am (English)

(Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Reheam 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice

(Church)

Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sist Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church

Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm nesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church

Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church

(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio

9am Sunday school 10am Regular worship 6pm worship

Wednesday 7pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please cal Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-

Thy Word Ministries Saipan

Phone 234-0209 located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.

Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguch Service Times

Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelis

Upper Room International Ministries

Morning prayer 7am-9am English service

7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noonEnglish service Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting

Gualo Rai Sainan

Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalo Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S



APRIL 5, 1999

EIC recipients receive money

Over 2,500 taxpayers awaiting Earned Income Credit will begin receiving this week 25 percent of their tax credits which have been held up for almost a year due to funding shortfall. The Department of Finance is currently preparing checks to be mailed out starting Wednesday that will form the first installment for the long-delayed EIC for tax year 1997.

NMI educators deal with illiteracy

About 26 percent of the population aged 18 and above, who did not complete secondary education, will be the main target audience of Adult Education in the next five years. In a draft proposal currently being studied by educators, Adult Education in the CNMI will face a daunting task in bringing in and taking the responsibility of providing literacy to the growing number of 18 and above who failed to make it during their younger years.

NMI has potential for regional sales/service

The CNMI has a huge potential to attract American companies that are eyeing the Asian market by establishing their regional sales, service and warehousing operations here, according to Richard Colfax, a business and marketing professor, University of Guam. Such opportunity, he said, would be particularly attractive for firms that sell and service high-value technical items, such as large-scale computers, specialized medical equipment and certain types of manufacturing equipment. USmanufactured goods can be stored in warehouses in the CNMI while awaiting shipment to Asian markets.

APRIL 5, 2000

NMI importing less fish

Spurred by the increasing demand for fresh sea products. more local businessmen are venturing into commercial fishing as manifested by the sharp decrease in fish imports in recent years, a report from the Department of Commerce disclosed. The Central Statistics Division noted that fish imports dropped by close to 85 percent in a six-year period, from 1.194 million pounds in 1992 to only about 184,300 pounds in 1997.

Begin selection of power project builder

Saying he was "pleased" with the signing of the bill reinstating the mothballed 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan, Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday prodded the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to begin work on selection of a contractor to build the project. He said it's about time that CUC officials buckle down to work and address the need of the residents for efficient power supply.

NMHC soliciting support from banks on home lending program

Discussion is already underway between the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and two private banking companies for a joint effort in intensifying the government's home lending program, according to Executive Director Marylou S. Ada. Ms. Ada disclosed that housing officials have been trying to encourage Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the First Hawaiian Bank to provide guaranteed mortgage financing to beef up NMHC efforts in promoting the advantages of home ownership.

APRIL 5, 2001

Floating casino on its way to Saipan

A huge Florida-based leisure company is seriously looking at putting up a multi-million-dollar investment on Saipan, a development seen to alleviate the CNMI's economic conditions, which had gone sour since the Asian contagion in 1997. Executives of SunCruz Casinos were on island earlier this week to meet with key government officials where concrete plans for the establishment of a \$10-million floating casino near the coast of Saipan were discussed.

Lawmakers commit to pro-business stance

Members of the Legislature yesterday committed to support institution of business-friendly measures, amid an uproar from the business community due to the Senate's delayed action on the repeal of the three-year limit law. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio met with legislators yesterday for a possible compromise measure that will ensure the Commonwealth's economic growth despite the existence of what the business leaders claimed are restrictive policies.

Business

Gas prices rise to a new national record

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline prices extended their record run at the pump Thursday, but took a breather in futures trading as investors collected profits from the previous session's huge advance.

Crude oil futures, meanwhile, fell as the dollar stabilized and prompted selling by investors who previously bought crude as an inflation hedge.

At the pump, the national average price of a gallon of gas rose 0.2 cent overnight to \$3.289 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's the latest in a string of records set as gas prices have followed surging oil futures higher.

In futures trading Thursday, May gasoline fell 4.93 cents to settle at \$2.7243 a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange, dropping back after soaring 13.44 cents to a new record of \$2.7736 on Wednesday.

Wednesday's surge in gas futures, accompanied by a big gain in oil prices, is expected to send prices even higher at the pump

follow the futures market, although with some time lag. Gas got a boost from an Energy Department report Wednesday that gasoline supplies fell last week while demand rose for the first time since January.

The report also showed that refiners are holding back on producing gasoline due to low refining profit margins. The combination of low production and higher demand during peak summer driving season and high crude prices—could boost gas prices even further into record territory.

"There's always concern ahead of the driving season," said Tim Evans, an analyst at Citigroup Inc. in New York.

The Energy Department expects gas prices to peak near \$3.50 a gallon later in the spring. Many analysts think prices could rise as high as \$3.75 or \$4.

In oil trading Thursday, May light, sweet crude fell \$1 to settle at \$103.83 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after rising nearly \$4 on Wednesday. Oil prices have held above \$100 in the near future; retail prices for more than a month.

Jobless claims highest since September 2005

WASHINGTON (AP)—The teriorating toward recessionary number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits last week shot up to the highest level in more than two years, fresh evidence of the damage to a national economy clobbered by housing, credit and financial crises.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications filed for unemployment insurance jumped by a seasonally adjusted 38,000 to 407,000 for the week ending March 29. The increase left claims at their highest point since Sept. 17, 2005, following the blows of the devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes.

view that the jobs market is de-

conditions," said T.J. Marta, a fixed-income strategist at RBC Capital Markets.

The latest snapshot of labor activity was worse than economists had anticipated. They had predicted claims would be much lower, around 365,000.

In other economic news, the Institute for Supply Management said the nation's service sector—including retailers, hotels, insurance companies and other firms—contracted in March but not as much as the month before. The institute's index registered 49.6 last month, compared to 49.3 in February. A reading below 50 indicates con-"This report supports the traction, while a reading above 50 indicates growth.

Late loan payments highest since 1992

WASHINGTON (AP)—Borrowers fell behind on their car. home equity and home improvement loans in last three months of 2007 at a delinquency rate not hit since the early 1990s.

The American Bankers Association reported Thursday that late payments on a group of consumer loans increased to 2.65 percent in the October-December quarter, up from 2.44 percent in the July-September quarter. It was the highest level since the first quarter of 1992, when the economy had just emerged from a recession.

"The rise in consumer credit delinquencies is consistent with a rapidly slowing economy." James Chessen, the group's chief economist, said in a statement. "Stress in the housing market still dominates the story but it's a broader tale of an overall weak economy."

Payments are considered delinquent if they are 30 or more days past due. The survey is based on information supplied by more than 300 banks nationwide. Late payments increased across all eight loan categories surveyed by the bankers' association.

Nation

10 dead in Pa. fire, 9 from one family

BROCKWAY, Pa. (AP)—A roaring flames melted the siding pre-dawn fire engulfed a western Pennsylvania home where three generations of the same family lived Thursday, killing 10 people, most of them children, while the patriarch worked an overnight shift.

Authorities identified the dead as a 40-year-old woman and nine people under 20, including two infants. Most of the younger ones were children or grandchildren of the woman, Kimberly Peterson.

Two members of the family escaped, including a young woman who jumped from the second floor and ran naked and screaming for help, officials said. The

on a neighboring house.

Fire Chief Kris Benson said the front of the house was ablaze when he arrived at 2:50 a.m. and tried to enter through a side door, but was forced back by smoke and flames.

"This fire had a very, very good jump on us," the chief said.

Jaime Hynds, a newspaper editor who lives across the street from the home, said she was awakened at about 2:30 a.m. by a naked woman shouting for help. The woman jumped from the second floor and ran to Hynds' home, according to her newspaper, The Courier-Express of DuBois.



A firefighter stands in front of the house where a fire killed as many as 10 people in Brockway, Pa. Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Obama outraises Clinton 2-1 in March

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama raked in \$40 million in March, leaving Hillary Rodham Clinton and her \$20 million in the fundraising dust and stuffing his campaign treasury so he can outspend her in the crucial Pennsylvania primary.

His haul in new donations also buttressed his argument to Democratic superdelegates that he has built a vast network of donors and volunteers that they wouldn't want to lose by denying him the nomination.

Obama has attracted nearly 1.3 million donors, largely through the Internet.

He has raised \$131 million in just the first three months of this year to \$70 million for Clinton. Republican John McCain's campaign has not revealed his March fundraising, but he has been far behind the Democrats, raising less than \$23 million in January and February combined.

Obama's campaign manager, David Plouffe, claimed a double benefit from the Illinois senator's fundraising. "Many of our contributors are volunteering for the campaign, making our campaign the largest grass-roots army in recent political history," he said.

Clinton, speaking to reporters in Burbank, Calif., in the midst of her own fundraising sweep through the state, said: "We're both raising huge amounts of money, and I am thrilled at how effective Democrats have been in raising money the last 15 or so months.

"I will have money to compete. Obviously Sen. Obama has more than enough money to compete. But this is a good news story because it means we are raising it from people committed to our candidacies."

and he had to quickly find a safe place to land. He picked Interstate 81, and brought it down safely with the flow of traffic. Like most drivers with an empty tank, he then pulled over to the side of the road and called for help, in this case reaching Virginia State Police First Sgt. Danny Glick.

Congress honors Martin Luther King Jr.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress marked the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death Thursday with tributes by House and Senate leaders and words of remembrance by lawmakers who once worked alongside the civil rights leader. The ceremonies were held as a pair of polls showed the public with racially divided views about the state of race relations today. "Because of the leadership of this man we rose up out of fear and became willing to put our bodies on the line," said Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a companion of King in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid noted that after King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968, his body was not bestowed the honor of lying in the Capitol Rotunda.

Asia

Blood racket drained poor Indian workers

GORAKHPUR, India (AP) their blood was drained for sale the capital of Uttar Pradesh, —When Durga Prasad heard of the mysterious job with the hefty paycheck, he jumped at it, no questions asked.

The work could be risky— Prasad figured he'd be asked to smuggle drugs into Nepal-but for the itinerant laborer from Uttar Pradesh, one of the poorest states in India, the money was worth it: 250 rupees a day, about \$6.

"I knew it must be some illegal work because no one pays so much money to an illiterate person like me," Prasad said.

The salary turned out to be part of a trap that ensnared Prasad and 14 other poor laborers, who were held captive while to private medical clinics.

The case has raised concerns about medical oversight in India—a nation eager to draw some of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who go to Asian hospitals for cheaper medical care each year.

Five men have been arrested in the illegal racket, but authorities are still searching for the suspected ringleader, said police official Brij Lal.

Prasad and the 14 others were rescued two weeks ago from a small filthy room inside a house in the slums of Gorakhpur, a town about 155 miles southeast of Lucknow,

police said.

Towns like this have largely missed out on the prosperity of India's booming economy, and the blood racket victims are among the 300 million who live on less than a dollar a day. Desperate laborers often get caught in dangerous scamsearlier this year, police raided a home in a wealthy New Delhi suburb where doctors were allegedly drugging the poor and stealing their kidneys.

Some of the men in Gorakhpur apparently sold their blood willingly, but the payments stopped early on, and when they asked for money they said they were beaten.

driver death US sailor is arrested in cab

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police arrested a U.S. sailor Thursday in the stabbing death of a taxi driver near an American naval base outside Tokyo, fueling anger here over crimes allegedly involving U.S. troops.

Olatunbosun Ugbogu, a 22year-old Nigerian national, was arrested on murder and robbery charges, a local police spokesman said. The spokesman said he had confessed.

Japanese officials reacted sharply to the arrest. Public anger over the American military presence is mounting after a series of allegations against U.S. servicemen in Japan, where some 50,000 American troops are based.

Ugbogu, a crew member on the USS Cowpens, is accused of stabbing 61year-old taxi driver Masaaki

Takahashi on March 19 in Yokosuka, just south of Tokyo and the site of a large U.S. naval base. Police also accuse him of failing to pay the \$190 taxi fare.

The police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of departmental rules, said the driver was stabbed in the shoulder with a kitchen knife and bled to death.

China seeks to close book on Tibetan unrest

DANBA, China (AP)—China plans to put Lhasa rioters on trial and reopen Tibet to tourism by May, underscoring the government's drive to close the book on recent unrest well ahead of this summer's Beijing Olympics.

Other Tibetan regions may remain off-limits considerably longer, however, with police in western Sichuan province blocking access to foreigners on Thursday. One officer said the area, scene of widespread protests last month, may remain closed through the end of the games.

Chinese propaganda continues to blame the Dalai Lama,

the exiled leader of Tibet's Buddhists, for a bloody March 14 riot in Lhasa.

In Washington, the Dalai Lama's special envoy told U.S. lawmakers that China must bear full responsibility for recent violence and suffering in Tibet and said his homeland is being "brutally occupied."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Airstrike kills 3 in **Afghanistan**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An airstrike in southern Afghanistan killed three armed militants, while a raid by U.S.-led coalition troops in the same region left several insurgents dead, officials said Thursday. The airstrike Wednesday killed militants north of Kandahar city, the capital of the southern Kandahar province, deputy provincial chief Amanullah Khan said. In neighboring Helmand province, U.S.-led coalition troops killed several insurgents during a raid targeting a Taliban commander in Kajaki district, the coalition said in a statement.

Bhutto's party woos Musharraf allies

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's ruling party said Thursday it has buried its rivalry with a group of former supporters of President Pervez Musharraf, further isolating the

U.S.-backed president. It was

unclear, however, if the Mutahida Quami Movement would join the coalition government which took office this week, or how far it will back plans to cut the president's powers. Asif Ali Zardari, the widower and political successor of slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto whose party leads the new government, met late Wednesday with leaders of the MQM.

Australia funds **Cambodian tribunal**

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Australia pledged \$458,000 Thursday for Cambodia's U.N.-backed genocide tribunal, whose operations have been threatened by a shortage of funds as it prepares for trials of former Khmer Rouge leaders. Bob McMullan, the Australian parliamentary secretary for international development assistance, announced the pledge during a meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sok An. He said his government made the decision to help pay Cambodia's share of the expenses because "we want to make sure that the resources are available so that this important step in justice is capable of being properly undertaken."

NKorea rejects SKorea appeal on tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's military rejected Thursday a South Korean appeal to ease rising tensions on the peninsula, while the South's new president accused the North of pointless provocations in his first comments on their strained relations. In a statement sent to the South, a North Korean general threatened that his country would take unspecified "military countermeasures" against its neighbor, the South Korean Defense Ministry said. North Korea was responding to a Defense Ministry message Wednesday asking the communist North to stop trying to provoke the South, saying Seoul was ready for dialogue to promote peace.

Pilot lands on interstate in Va.

five years in prison Thursday.

ACROSS THE NATION

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP)—Probation for

a convicted sex offender charged with raping a

6-year-old boy in a library was revoked Thursday

after the judge watched a videotape of the child

saying it was like being attacked by a "T-rex and an

alligator." Corey Saunders, 26, is accused of raping

the boy Jan. 30 while the child's mother worked on

a computer just outside the room and less than 10

feet away at the New Bedford Free Public Library.

At the time, Saunders was on probation after serv-

7-year-old boy. He was sentenced to the maximum

Boy describes attack

in Mass. library

ABINGDON, Va. (AP)—A student pilot whose two-seat Cessna 150 ran out of gas while he was floating through the skies made an emergency landing Wednesday on an interstate highway in western Virginia. Matthew Edward Scott, 27, of Blountville, Tenn., was on his way back to Abingdon's Virginia Highlands Airport from Knoxville on his first solo flight when his engine sputtered

ing four years in prison for the attempted rape of a

World

Bush wins NATO backing on missile shield

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)-NATO allies gave President Bush strong support Thursday for a missile defense system in Europe and urged Moscow to drop its angry opposition to the program. The unanimous decision strengthened Bush's hand for weekend talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said it was "a breakthrough document on missile defense for the alliance." At Bush's first NATO summit in 2001, "perhaps only two allies gave even lukewarm support for the notion of missile defense," Rice said.

This was Bush's final meeting with members of the 26-nation alliance, and White House officials described it as a day of freewheeling talks in which leaders and their foreign ministers got off script and gathered in crowds to debate the wording of a statement. "It doesn't happen in NATO meetings a lot," said Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley.

He said a group of leaders— "men in suits"—gathered around German Chancellor Angela Merkel to talk about putting former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on a path toward

NATO membership, a step she opposes. Moscow heatedly opposes any further eastward expansion of the alliance.

Summit leaders refused to grant the two countries a membership plan now, but said they would look at the issue again in December and they empowered their foreign ministers to decide it. The Balkan nations of Albania and Croatia were invited to join the alliance. Macedonia was turned aside at the insistence of Greece, which says the country's name implies a territorial claim to a northern region of Greece, also called Macedonia.

Diplomats: Iran assembling centrifuges

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Iran has assembled hundreds of advanced machines reflecting a possible intention to speed up uranium enrichment, diplomats have told The Associated Press.

One diplomat said more than 300 of the centrifuges have been linked up in two separate units in Iran's underground enrichment plant and a third was being assembled. He said the machines apparently are more advanced

than the thousands already running underground, suggesting they could be the sophisticated IR-2 centrifuge that Tehran recently acknowledged testing.

But a senior diplomat said that while the new work appeared to include advanced centrifuges, they were not IR-2s. He added that it was unclear whether the machines were above or below ground.

The location is significant,

since the aboveground site at Natanz is for experimental work and the underground facility is the working enrichment plant.

A third diplomat—who like the other two closely follows Iran's nuclear program—confirmed that Iran had started linking up advanced centrifuges in a configuration used for enrichment. But he said all remained above ground and none of the machines were running.

Zimbabwe opposition offices ransacked

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)— Intruders ransacked offices of the main opposition party and police detained foreign journalists Thursday in an ominous sign that President Robert Mugabe might turn to intimidation and violence in trying to stave off an electoral threat to his 28-year rule.

Earlier, Mugabe apparently launched his campaign for an

expected run-off presidential ballot even before the official results of Saturday's election were announced, with state media portraying the opposition as divided and controlled by former colonial ruler Britain.

Five days after the vote, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission still had not released results on the presidential election despite increasing international pressure, including from former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, who recently mediated an end to Kenya's postelection violence.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change already asserted its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, won the presidency outright, but said it was prepared to compete in any run-off.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq PM to expand crackdown on militias

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister pledged Thursday to expand his crackdown on Shiite militias to Baghdad, despite a mixed performance so far against militants in the southern city of Basra. The U.S. ambassador, meanwhile, said that despite a "boatload" of problems with the Basra operation, he was encouraged that the Shiite-led government was finally confronting extremists regardless of their religious affiliation. Iraqi forces launched a major operation March 25 to rid Basra of Shiite militias and criminal gangs that had effectively ruled the city of 2 million people since 2005. But the offensive stalled in the face of fierce resistance from the militiamen and an uprising across the Shiite south spearheaded by the Mahdi Army of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

UK finds 15 possible sites for eco-towns

LONDON (AP)—The British government selected 15 possible locations Thursday for its ambi-

tious plans to build 10 new lowenergy, carbon-neutral towns entirely from recycled materials. The so-called "eco-towns," a pet project of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, will be built from scratch and equipped with their own shops, schools and transportation links. The towns will run on renewable energy and use innovative waste recycling and water-saving systems. Housing ministers say they have narrowed the number of proposed sites down to 15 from a list of 57. The final 10 sites will be chosen within six months.

Airliner bomb plot trial begins in UK

LONDON (AP)—Eight British men planned to set off homemade bombs aboard at least seven airliners flying over the Atlantic to the United States and Canada, hoping to kill hundreds in a mammoth terror attack, a prosecutor said Thursday as their trial opened. Prosecutor Peter Wright said the men had plotted to strike United Airlines, American Airlines and Air Canada flights at the height of the summer vacation season in 2006. Details of seven specific

flights from London's Heathrow airport to Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Washington, Toronto and Montreal were stored on a computer memory stick, he said in the opening arguments of a trial expected to last around six months.

Egypt Islamist group backs strike

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian textile workers and pro-democracy activists are calling for a day of strikes and protests Sunday, just ahead of local elections at a time of widespread anger at President Hosni Mubarak's government over rising prices and low wages. The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's strongest opposition group, threw its support behind the strikers Thursday. The move raised government fears that the group is trying to position itself as a political vehicle for the widespread economic discontent. Facing multiple challenges to its authority ahead of local elections Tuesday, the government this week announced a ban on political rallies inside mosques, hoping to blunt protests, and lifted taxes on some foodstuffs.



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Maharlika – PinoyNews

Human Dignity Movement leads prayer vigil

REPORTER

To further show their support for federalization of the CNMI's immigration system, the Human Dignity Movement is leading a prayer vigil this afternoon at the American Memorial Park from 5pm to 8pm.

According to Human Dignity president Jerry Custodio, "Our struggle for justice, social, and political rights has long been a long one. We hope we are nearing the end.

"Kung hindi tayo kikilos, sino ang kikilos? Kung hindi ngayon, kailan pa! [If we will not act, who will? If not now, when?]," Custodio said.

The event, which is also supported by other guest worker organizations, is encouraging all guest workers—Filipinos, Chinese, Bangladeshis, Nepalese, Koreans, Japanese, Canadians, Sri Lankan, and others; concerned local residents, and business owners to participate and show full support for the vigil

The event is expected to feature prayers and inspirational messages by speakers ranging from Custodio, Korean Association Simon Sin, and Human Dignity Movement official Rene Reyes, to Bangladeshi Community member Mansural Alam, Ron Hodges, and others.

According to human rights activist Wendy Doromal, the



Jerry Custodio, president of Human Dignity Movement, is joined by activist Ron Hodges and other members at the Beach Road pavilion Wednesday. The prayer vigil to express support for the federalization of the CNMI's immigration system will be held on April 5 at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater, from 5pm to 8pm

"event gives those who support federalization, and those who wish to promote social and political justice for the CNMI's guest workers an opportunity to renew the energy, unity, and hope of December's Unity March.'

In an invitation to community members to participate in today's vigil, Doromal stated, "Recently, the unity of guest worker community has been tested with proposals of CNMI permanent residency, resulting in differing, even conflicting views."

"Unity does not mean that we must walk the same paths to get to the final destination. Unity does not mean that we must trust the same people. It does not mean that we must always agree. Unity means that we respect each other's opinions and agree to disagree," Dormal said.

The Human Dignity Movement is encouraging other guest worker organizations to participate in this event despite their differences on the federalization issue.

"It's not about who-thinkswhat, it's about the community coming together peacefully," Custodio said.

Doromal said that the "vision of the Unity Movement is a shared vision of a united and prosperous CNMI. It can only be achieved through mutual respect, collaboration, and social and political justice."

An oversupply of nurses plagues Philippines

By GLORIA ESGUERRA MELENCIO

MANILA—The Philippines has an oversupply of nurses this year as "world-class schools" in the country continue to produce thousands of nurses and some diploma mill schools churn out countless practical nurses.

University of the Philippines College of Nursing Dean Dr. Josefina Tuazon and Philippine Nurses Association National President Leah Paquiz disclosed that the oversupply of nurses is fast becoming the country's problem even as deployment abroad may be the "first choice" for these graduates.

Tuazon explained that due to the numerous nursing graduates this year at 67,728, hospitals have to get volunteer nurses —a lot better because they are not paid—to accommodate the fresh graduates.

High number of graduates of Practical Nursing, a two-year course that focuses on the basics of nursing, aggravates the unemployment problem, Tuazon stressed.

"There is no local demand or positions for practical nurses within the Philippine Health Care Delivery system particularly in the light of the oversupply of nurses and subsequent unemployment of graduate nurses," PNA's Paquiz revealed in a written statement distributed to the media recently.

Schools offering Practical Nursing have mushroomed in the country overnight as they promise overseas employment that may await the graduates of this two-year non-degree course. The promise of work abroad, however, is not true as foreign employers prefer the four-year college-degree nurses who passed the Licensure Board Exams, Paquiz added.

The farthest thing that these practical nurses can reach is become nurse assistants, Tuazon noted

The PNA likewise asked the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) of the Department of Education to put a stop to other schools' offering the Practical Nursing program.

The PNA "strongly to the institution of the Practical Nursing program and vehemently rejects the proposed ladderization of the nursing curriculum," the PNA statement said.

The PNA president also disclosed that United States, home to almost 250,000 Filipino nurses in the past years, stopped issuing work visas this year because the quota requirement for migrant workers has already been reached. There were 21,000 Filipino nurses seeking employment in the US in 2007.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration deployed a total of 13, 525 licensed nurses around the world in 2006. Of this number, 12,263 are females and 1, 261 are males.

Saudi Arabia employed some 600 Filipino nurses, the highest so far of all Middle East countries in 2006.

Japan has 1.1 million Filipino nurses and licensed caregivers

OFWs appeal to Kuwait ruler for condemned Filipina

By JEROME ANING

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—A group of migrant workers said Thursday it has begun circulating in Filipino communities overseas a letter to the Emir of Kuwait imploring him to spare the life of May Vecina, a domestic worker whose death sentence was recently upheld by

the Kuwaiti Supreme Court.

International's Migrante Middle East chapter said it came out with the letter to appeal to the compassion Emir Sheik Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to commute Vecina's sentence.

The group recalled the Emir's kindness in commuting the death sentence on Marilou

Ranario, another domestic convicted of murdering her employer.

"Vecina is married with two young children living in the Philippines. She was forced to leave her family and children to help support them financially. We fervently hope that this (commutation of Ranario's sentence) could be duplicated in

the case of May Vecina and we would be most grateful for this." said the letter, a copy of which was e-mailed to the Philippine Daily Inquirer from Riyadh.

The group also came out with a second letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to ask the Philippine government to "exhaust all possible means" to

Responsibility for repatriation costs

Q. Who is responsible for alien workers' costs of

A: The last employer of record is responsible for all the costs of repatriation of a foreign national worker. The new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations define last employer of record as the employer under the most recent approved employment contract, on file at the Department of Labor, with respect to the foreign national worker.

Repatriation costs include the expenses with respect to the embalming and transport of deceased workers back to their respective countries where they are hired.

Q: Who is responsible for the repatriation costs of alien workers who are on temporary work authorization or on illegal employment?

A: An employer of a foreign national worker under temporary work authorization is not responsible for repatriation costs, according to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations.

With respect to illegal employment, the regulations state that an employer who hires an alien worker without an approved employment contract, without an approved security contract, or without an approved health insurance contract or who is otherwise in violation of CNMI law shall be assessed in full or partial repatriation costs by the Labor Director.

Q: Who is responsible for the repatriation costs of alien workers in cases where there is a last employer of record but the worker has also been illegally employed by another employer?

A: In such kind of situations, the Labor director may assess repatriation costs entirely to the last employer of record, entirely to the illegal employer, or partially to both employers.

If an alien worker has been employed illegally and a last employer of record is assessed repatriation costs, that employer may recover the assessed repatriation costs from the illegal employer in an action before the Superior Court.

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Arroyo turns 61, to get 'no remittance' gift from OFWs

MANILA—President Macapagal-Arroyo will take a day off today, April 5, to celebrate her 61st birthday, which leftwing migrant workers have declared a "zero remittance day" as a protest for her alleged neglect of overseas Filipino workers.

It will be a private affair, she told reporters before she ended her three-day working visit in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

Her birthday wish was for the country to "weather the global slowdown ... so that we will be uninterrupted in our journey toward the first world in a generation." Ms Arroyo has often country to be transformed into a developed economy.

Migrante International, an umbrella group of militant OFW groups around the world, said Saturday would be a zero remittance day to signify the OFW sector's contribution to the Filipino people's legitimate search for truth and accountability.

The action also was aimed at supporting calls for the resignation of Ms Arroyo, the group said. It accused Ms Arroyo of "criminal neglect" of OFWs in distress.

The President returned from Hong Kong bringing home a pledge of a \$2 billion in investment from a Chinese property development company.

RP rice hoarders face life in jail

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Justice is preparing economic sabotage or plunder charges that carry a life sentence against traders found to be hoarding rice, the price of which has risen sharply amid a tight global supply.

Although the country has yet to experience a shortage, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez Thursday vowed to hale to court hoarders and other unscrupulous rice traders for acts "inimical to the public interest."

Gonzalez mentioned Chinese rice traders, but was quick to point out that "Filipino millers, for example, were also trying to take advantage" of the "emergency situation."

Gonzalez confirmed the existence of Chinese rice cartels in the country, but added: "We will not engage in witch-hunt." The justice secretary said the newly sworn Chinese-Filipino officials had talked to the President about it.

Gonzalez was responding to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's order last week to crack down on hoarders and retailers mislabeling governmentsubsidized rice as commercial

On Wednesday, the DOJ created the Anti-Rice Hoarding Task Force.

The President ordered the crackdown to help avert a rice shortage, which could trigger social unrest.

She has also ordered huge imports of rice from neighboring countries like Vietnam and Thailand, and cancelled permits to rice dealers reselling statesubsidized rice to avoid artificial price hikes.

Rising rice prices prompted the President to allot P5 billion as a subsidy to rice farmers and to increase the National Food Authority's buying price for palay (unhusked rice) by 42 percent.

In an interview after she administered the oath of office to the new officers of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club Inc., the President Thursday said that DOJ officials "have started prosecuting."

"We started in Cebu. We are also trying to get the names of those warehouses (in Bulacan raided by the National Bureau of Investigation)," Gonzalez said.

Following a raid on Tuesday, the NFA suspended the rice allocations of 21 accredited retailers in Cebu province found to have committed violations, including overpricing.

On the same day, in Bocaue, Bulacan, a joint team from the NFA, NBI and Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group raided several warehouses following reports that some traders in the town were hoarding rice.

Raided was the Inter-city Industrial Estate, which houses some 115 warehouses, according to Roland Argabioso, chief of the NBI Field Operations Division. Argabioso said each warehouse held 25,000 to 40,000 sacks of rice.

In Mandaue City, a joint team of the NFA and NBI raided a warehouse on Wednesday night and found 30,000 sacks of rice imported from Vietnam.

Also on Wednesday, authorities raided two warehouses in Quezon City, including one owned by a brother of Pangasinan Vice Gov. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas.

The moves angered rice dealers and distributors, who have threatened to stop selling rice across the country.



Record-high rice harvest seen in 2009

By AMY R. REMO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Agriculture expects a record-high rough rice yield of 8.5 million metric tons in the dry season harvest of 2009 with the help of a P5-billion subsidy recently granted by the national government, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said.

That will be a big leap from the 7.0-7.2 million metric tons estimated for this year's dry season, Yap said in an interview.

The dry season runs from November to

Yap said plans had yet to be finalized but part of the P5-billion government subsidy would be used to rehabilitate irrigated lands.

For this year, the Department of Agriculture has allotted at least P8 billion for construction, repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities serving 60,000 hectares of arable land. Over the next three years, it expects to irrigation facilities to cover a total of 300,000 hectares of land.

Increased spending on irrigation in key rice producing areas is crucial to the government's plan to attain rice self-sufficiency by 2010.

So far, the country has 1.413 million hectares of irrigated lands.

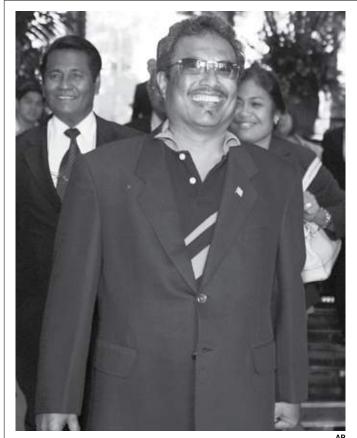
Yap added that the department would also use part of the subsidy to boost distribution of seeds or to intensify seed support and other necessary planting materials.

"There is a need to pump in funds now

and prepare for the 2009 dry planting season," he said. "For instance, we need to ensure that there will be enough hybrid and certified seeds by April or May in preparation for the November planting."

He added, however, that agricultural officials were still discussing the amount to be allocated for each program.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo this week announced that she would issue an executive order authorizing the grant of P5 billion—five percent of last year's budget surplus of P100 billion—to subsidize farmers and ensure steady supply of rice. For the year, the agriculture department expects rough rice production to reach 17.3 million metric tons, from last year's production of 16.24 million. (INQUIRER.net)



President Tommy Remengasau Jr. of the Republic of Palau, smiles as he leaves his hotel in Manila for his departure back to Palau Thursday April 3, 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

Continental defends decision not to allow Palau president on board

By TERESA CEROJANO ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Continental Airlines stood pat in the decision of its employees not to let the president of the Pacific nation of Palau board its airplane for refusing to be frisked.

In a statement, the carrier said its employed explained U.S. aviation security requirements in detail to Palau President Tommy Remengasau but he refused to comply.

It said it "had no choice but to deny boarding of the President and his party to ensure the safety and on-time operation of the flight for other passengers on board."

All passengers had to take the security check without exception, it added.

Koji Nagata, from the airline's corporate communication office, said screening consists of "a hand wanding with the electric wand."

Remengesau himself issued a statement soon after arriving at the Palauan capital of Koror: "I am well aware of security concerns that airlines face and I support their efforts to keep flying safe, but there must be some room for the exercise of common sense in all decisions, and there must

be respect for the dignity of the highest level of government."

He said he will bring up the matter with regional airlines serving Palau and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration to ensure respect for visiting heads of state.

But he said the incident should not tarnish his state visit to the Philippines, with the two countries signing agreements on air services, medical tourism, education and telecommunications.

The Palauan president was briefly stranded in the Philippine capital when Continental Airlines refused to allow him aboard a flight without being frisked, officials said Thursday.

Adding a bizarre twist to the incident, the Continental flight that Remengasau would have boarded was targeted by a bomb threat called in to the military and was forced to turn back. No bomb was found.

The Philippine air force chief said it was unlikely the two incidents were linked.

Palau Ambassador Ramon Rechebei said the Philippines has apologized for Wednesday night's incident and paid for a private aircraft to take Remengasau, his wife and ministers to Palau's capital, Koror, on Thursday.

Pasay fire kills father, daughter

By JULIE M. AURELIO PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—A man and his child died in an early morning fire which gobbled up a ten-unit apartment building in Pasay City on Fiday

FO2 Renato Recto of the Pasay City fire department identified the casualties as Rufo Ufos, 38, and nine-year-old Rodalyn.

The victims fell when the second floor the building at 202 Orion St corner Villar collapsed because of the intense heat.

Supt. Sofia Mendoza, district fire marshal, said the fire began at 4:55 a.m. and fire fighters were able to put it out at 6:35 a.m.

As of this posting, Mendoza reported another ongoing fire in the residential area at the Silverio compound in Parañaque City that began at 6:41 a.m.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Juday trying new things 'for a back-up career'

By Marinel Cruz
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Frustrating was how actress Judy Ann Santos described her ongoing problem with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, when she met the press this week.

In 2005, the BIR filed with the Department of Justice tax evasion charges against Judy Ann for allegedly under-declaring her 2002 income by P6.7 million.

"Three years- hindi pa rin matapos-tapos. Am I going to jail or what?" Juday wondered. "I pray about it a lot, but I'm also prepared for the worst."

Juday insisted she had never been remiss in her tax obligations. "I pay my taxes quarterly, or as soon as I get paid for my endorsements." Speaking of which, the media exchange took place during her endorsement contract signing with Lactacyd. Juday said she is also praying hard for the release of her daughter Yohan's adoption papers. "If God should grant me one birthday wish, I hope it's this one."

You're turning 30 this month.

I'm excited about [that]. Iba na ang level mo 'pag 30 ka na. I'd like to work on new things. I recently began my 100-hour OJT at Café Ysabel in Manila. And I just finished the movie "Ploning," which I co-produced.

How will you celebrate?

I can't say yet. I'm saving for a bigger house. I want it to be in a really secluded subdivision, and spacious enough for the kids. Dumarami na rin kasi ang mga pamangkin ko.



Judy Ann Santos on co-producing the movie Ploning: "I'm trying new things, so I'll have a back-up career."

I didn't expect to last 20 years in this business. I've come to realize that ... to be happy, I just need to please myself. I've also learned that if you love some-

one, [you should] share him

on top of your game?

How do you stay

There are rumors

that you and Ryan

are tying the knot

Ryan and I are OK the

way we are. Every day,

we just try to have fun with Yohan, slowly in-

troducing ourselves to

this year.

family life.

I just make sure that whatever I do comes from my heart. Being honest with my fans is also important.

How are things with "Ploning"?

We're almost done with the editing. We've worked on this for eight years. It has an April 30 playdate, through the whole

month of May, in SM theaters. It's directed by my best friend, Dante Nico Garcia.

Did you adjust your talent fee for this?

Same rate... but I decided to coproduce the movie. I'm trying new things, so I'll have a backup career.

Are you aware that the "indie film" tag does not

Gabby swamped with TV, movie offers

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Gabby Concepcion caused quite a commotion in the ABS-CBN studio when he guested on "The Buzz" last Sunday. He still hasn't lost his boyish charms. Prior to his one-on-one with Boy Abunda, he wanted to sit backstage so he could watch the taped interview of his daughter KC.

Though Gabo says he's still willing to do a movie with Jolina Magdangal (as originally planned until something came up), that seems next to impossible now since he's a Kapamilya and she's a Kapuso. The former matinee idol is swamped with TV and movie offers. Will he take it, take it?

Unforgettable summer

Summertime and the living is easy. Hormones are jumping and the pranksters are high. We've all had our share of summer flings and mischief just as these celebs share here. Do you remember your summer somewhere out there?

Zsa Zsa Padilla: "Back in the late '80s, I rode the bus to Baguio and no one recognized me. I needed to clear my thoughts so I left for a couple of days. I went back to Manila the same way. It was quite an adventure."

Cesar Montano: "One summer before I got married, I met a young pretty German lady in Bohol named Sarah. We had a beautiful moment together one morning when she was alone in the resort. But that's nothing compared to the escapades I had with my wife while I was courting her. Like nung tinakas ko si Shine without her parents' knowledge. I took her to Bohol and we had dinner by the sea with the Loboc children's choir serenading us."

Jed Madela: "Our parents gave me and my siblings money to hire a private van from Iloilo to Boracay. But we kept the money and took the bus instead. The bus got robbed; we gave the thieves our entire allowance. We never told our parents about it until summer's end."

Giselle Sanchez: "It was the summer of '94 when I gave my virginity to Emil, who is now my husband. The next day, I told my co-hosts Randy Santiago and Dennis Padilla about it since I promised to inform them the minute I lost it. After I told

them, they brought my mom in and told her my secret. I was flabbergasted! I told her it was just a joke when in truth, the joke was on me."

translate well at the box

"Ploning is indie only in the sense that it's made by inde-

pendent producers. It's shot in

35mm. It's really special. Ryan

is even doing a coffee-table

Juday will soon be seen with

Derek Ramsey in ABS-CBN's

"Narserye," directed by Mark

Meily and Andoy Ranay.

office?

book about it.

Diether Ocampo: "One summer day, I went on a spur-ofthe-moment trip to Cebu to go diving without letting anyone know of my whereabouts."

Luke Mejares: "One summer, when I was still in high school in Bohol, I asked permission to attend a workshop. But I went to Cebu instead and met with my girlfriend."

Grand debut

GMA 7's reality singing talent search, "Pinoy Idol," will finally have its grand debut on April 5, right after "Pinoy Records."

"Pinoy Idol" will begin its selection from among the 179 hopefuls who received gold tickets. Hosting the show is Raymond Gutierrez, with Ogie Alcasid, Wyngard Tracy and Jolina Magdangal as judges.

Judge Ogie's advice to aspirants? "They should have a distinct sound and conduct themselves as professionals." That's how to turn zero worship to idol worship!

GMA 7 has announced that a total of 25,000 aspirants showed up for the "Pinoy Idol" auditions held in eight cities. At least 8,000 of them got to perform in front of the judges throughout the three-month tryouts. The number was further trimmed down to the 180 that will slug it out for the Manila eliminations later this month.

Fuming Mad

Brazilian model Mariana del Rio is fuming mad at Sam Milby for allegedly not telling the story behind the story about how they met. She insists that he was the one who made the first move.

Mariana is being pinpointed as the cause of one of Sam's major "LQs" with Anne Curtis and a recurring source of irritation between them. An insider says Anne and Sam were overheard yelling at each other backstage a few weeks ago. Could it have been triggered by Mariana again?

Sam clarifies, "I met Mariana on the set of ASAP and she asked for my number. That's that. I don't wanna talk about it anymore."

Like a case of which came first, the chicken or the egg? Is Sam or Mariana crowing louder?

PERSONAL FINANCE

Saving is just about to begin at 40

INQUIRER.net

FIRST POSTED 10:03:00 03/25/2008

Question: I just turned 40 and realized that I don't have much savings at all. I'm single, but have been supporting my mother all these years. My salary just goes to my expenses and my mother's. I don't have any siblings and my father already passed away. How can I start saving and what's the best strategy to do it?—Donna H.

Answer: It's true what they say—life begins at 40. See, now that you're 40, you'd like to turn over a new leaf and start saving.

It's never too late to start saving, Donna, although it's better to do it as early as possible. That's because time and compound interest will both work to make one's savings grow even faster, snowballing into a nice sum in the future.

All these time you have been spending your salary on yourself and your mother. To start saving, you have to have a different mindset: From now on, treat savings as an expense, one that should be on top of your list, even before you spend on necessities like food and transportation.

This is what financial experts have been preaching for the longest time: Pay yourself first. That's the savings you will tuck away every pay day for your future. And you have to do it as soon as you get your pay; otherwise, there may not be enough money left at the end of the month for you to save. So

before you spend, save first.

Why save? It's to make sure you'll have a fund to dip into should something critical happen in the future, such as a job loss or an illness. It's also necessary to save so you will have enough for retirement.

You're single—this makes it easier to save. That's because you won't have to save up for what most parents do: children's education, which can be costly from preschool to college. But the fact that you support your mother means that you have to save for two.

We don't know how strong your mother is, but should she still be strong, broach to her the idea of doing some money on the side. If she loves to cook, would she like to sell her home-baked goodies? If she enjoys crocheting, she may light up at the idea of selling her crocheted items at a neighborhood bazaar. Whatever her passion is, find out if there can be a money-making side to it. She doesn't need to go out and work for someone else; something to work on at home will be ideal. Any extra income she will earn will definitely be good for her in the long run, and slightly ease the burden off vour shoulders to provide for her 100 percent. This will also be good for her self-esteem.

There's a strategy to saving well. Below are more tips for you:

1. Open a separate bank account for your long-term savings. This will immediately make your savings a separate fund from the savings or

checking account that covers your day-to-day expenses. Doing so will safeguard your savings from being raided for living expenses.

2. Deposit 10, even 25 percent of your pay check in this account every pay day. If you can, arrange for transfers to be made to your account for savings electronically through online banking or phone banking. This will save you time and effort and won't give you an excuse not to do it.

3. As soon as you have enough in your account for savings to meet the minimum required investment, transfer the funds to a pooled fund such as a mutual fund or unit investment trust fund. A mutual fund is handled by a financial company, while a UITF is run by a bank. In both these funds, the fund manager gathers small amounts from a number of investors and invests these all together in agreed-upon forms of investments such as bonds, stocks, or a mix of both. It's good to invest in these pooled funds as they will make your savings potentially grow more than if it were to stay in your savings account in the bank. True, there's a risk involved, but the potential gains may be worth it.

4. Get enough insurance. Since you're the family breadwinner, you have to make sure your mother will be taken care of should something happen to you. Talk to an insurance agent about getting life insurance for you, with your mother as beneficiary. Also inquire about getting health insurance for both of you so your sav-

ings will not be wiped out should any of you get sick and need hospitalization.

5. Aim to have enough by retirement. Not only should you be diligent about saving; be extra vigilant about spending as well. Cut down on costs and live simply. Since you are now 40, you have about 20 to 25 years left to work. You have to make sure you'll have enough by age 60 and beyond to support your lifestyle by then.

6. Find other sources of income. If you're just relying on your day job, then it's time to look for other means to augment your income. There are many things you can do. If you like plants, for instance, you may grow bonsais and flowering plants and sell these at a weekend bazaar. Or if you can teach, consider teaching a class on Saturdays. Use the extra income for your retirement fund.

Don't be discouraged if people younger than you seem to be more financially stable than you are. As we said, it's never too late to start saving. Just do so starting today.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Letter to the Editor

Wrong values outside school

Editor's Note: First published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on April 4, 2008.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, saying that students must be insulated from politics, appealed to political groups and personalities not to bring their battle over the national broadband network deal to school campuses.

Must the youth be kept ignorant of the affairs of the state? Shouldn't teachers guide them so they can make informed decisions?

The youth know very well that they are being deprived of their right to quality education, which they see in the poor facilities of their schools and, worst, the growing number of their classmates who are dropping out because of poverty. Must they turn a blind eye to corruption? Must they act deaf and dumb amid the fraud and official lies? Must the children of the victims of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances meekly submit to the injustice that has been done to them and their loved ones?

The trouble with the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration is that it is focused on covering up its evil rule by repressing the people's basic freedoms. Arrovo must be reminded that children must be taught and nurtured with the values needed to shape a better society.

Robert Fulghum, in his book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,' has a lot to say about leadership and governance. Let me cite a few:

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Flush.

But what do our children learn from the Arroyo administration?

- While in power, amass as much wealth as you can.
- Buy votes to win elections. And if you must, call the chair of the Commission on Elections to manipulate the results in your favor.
- Kill, abduct, harass, torture, persecute those who work for justice, peace and mean-
- Go sell our sovereignty and patrimony. Mother Nature be damned as long as you earn from the sellout.
- Stealing public funds is OK. Never mind if people go hungry and are deprived of proper health care, quality education and decent shelter, as long as you and your family get richer
- But feign piety and make sure your religious activities are covered by the media.
- Cover up your corrupt dealings. If exposed, try to make "palusot" (e.g., find a scapegoat). If there's no way out, say "I am sorry" in public, but find ways to escape accountability.
- Keep your supporters loyal with bribes and political rewards. Distribute "paper bags" every time you meet with them.
- Always assure everyone that you will step down at the end of your term, as the law provides, even if you have contrary plans.

While teachers struggle in the classroom to impart the right values, their students see, in real life, a solid example of governance by corruption, lies, cheating, thievery and murder.

NORMA P. DOLLAGA

Kapatirang Simbahan Para Sa Bayan EDSA, Quezon City

Dark, darker, darkest

he dark cloud is that we are being led out of our deepest misfortune by the one person most responsible for it.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did not start the policy of relying on the world market rather than embarking on a program of food security to keep Juan de la Cruz reasonably fed. Others did so before her, notably Fidel Ramos, who became president at a time when the socialist world had just crumbled and who reveled in the free-market triumphalism that ensued. He was among the first to embrace unbridled globalism and seemed to be vindicated in doing so until the crippling Asian financial crisis of 1997 struck. After which it looked as if what he had embraced was not a fair lady but one of the looser kind.

It was not Arroyo who started the policy, but it was she who pursued it with the same doggedness with which she has pursued power. She it was in the first place who pushed for the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade in the Senate during the Ramos presidency, or indeed for adopting it over and beyond the call of GATT itself. While the developed countries, like the United States, the European Union, and Japan, continued to intervene to give enormous subsidies to their agriculture, the Philippines was only too glad to obey the order to surrender itself to market forces. By rights Japan should not be producing its own rice under a regime of globalization: Only 15 percent of its land is suitable for cultivation so that by rights, or by the law of comparative advantage, it should be importing it. Yet it continues to produce its own rice by massively subsidizing rice farming and is currently producing surpluses. Its officials might as well say apologetically, "So sorry, food not negotiable, screw globalization."

Here, with fickle weather and an even fickler government, with farm inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides) increasingly getting out of their reach, with traders downright swindling them (not least by declaring part of their produce substandard or spoiled), farmers are no longer able to keep their heads above water. And rather than drown in it, they opt to do things other than farm, chief of them making a beeline for the nearest overseas recruitment office, legal or illegal. Rice lands have fallen dramatically over the last decade or so, and farmers even more so.

Under her specific watch, Arroyo has not just made the Philippines the most corrupt country in Asia, she has made the Philippines the biggest rice importer in Asia. Some say in the whole world: We are currently buying 2.2 million tons abroad every year despite the hugely ironic fact that we host the International Rice Research Institute.

What wasn't a headache then is so today. Because unlike in the past, we are facing a world that is beset by crises of all shapes and sizes. Not the least of them is falling food production worldwide. For much of the 20th century, food production has outpaced population. That is no longer so today with fossil-fuel exhaustion (high yields depend on oil-based inputs), loss of arable lands and fresh water supplies, environmental degradation, and runaway population growth. Given our own levels of staggering corruption in government, horrendously skewed distribution of wealth (the plethora of cars on the road is not a sign of prosperity, it is a sign of a tiny few having more than the teeming others), and widening poverty despite growth, the specter of hunger truly looms upon the land.

The darker cloud is that we are being led out of our deepest misfortune by the one person we

We are being led by a person who likes to superimpose an alternate reality on this country, or who likes to put a billboard proclaiming an Enchanted Kingdom on a pigsty. She says Filipinos are tired of "political noise." All the surveys say Filipinos are tired of her, three out of every five of them saying they do not trust her. (More than that said some years ago they did not believe she won the elections.) She says Filipinos have never had it better over the past 30 years, enjoying as they do today wondrous growth. Even official figures show the dirt-poor have grown from 30 percent to 33 percent of the population. She says her gov-

THERE'S THE RUB By CONRADO DE QUIROS

Inquirer



ernment has gotten rid of corruption. The Political and Economic Risk Consultancy says, "Ha, ha ha, ha, ha!" or a more polite version of it, which is to rank the Philippines the rankest country in Asia for two straight years now.

She has even gotten to the point where she now believes she can superimpose that alternate reality not just on Filipinos but on the world's businessmen and leaders. I don't know which is more embarrassing, her declaration in Hong Kong that she has gotten rid of corruption or her declaration at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum that she had gotten rid of human rights violations in her country. You're tempted to believe that in the case of Hong Kong her subtext really was: "You're Chinese, you thrive on corruption. Surely we can do business?"

I wrote early this year that crisis is like war and that during those times people look up to someone who can inspire them. To a Winston Churchill who can call on the people to shed blood, sweat and tears, and have the clout to be obeyed. To a Franklin D. Roosevelt who can promise a Fair Deal for everyone and have the honesty to be believed. Today, as we face our crisis or war, we have only someone who ... well, there's another word for "superimposing an alternate reality," and that is lies.

The darkest cloud is that we are being led out of our deepest misfortune by another Ferdinand Marcos. Marcos was the one most responsible for the anarchy and divisiveness of his time, and he was the one person Filipinos least trusted during his time. Yet he proposed to be this country's savior, and imposed the idea on us by mounting a dictatorship that lasted for 14 years.

We don't heed history, we will repeat it.

Historical dictionaries

y fascination for words began in college freshman English class under the late Doreen G. Fernandez, who was supposed to teach me literature and grammar but left me with a lifelong interest and a career in Philippine studies. I did a research paper on curse words in Filipino that led me first to the thick Vicassan's dictionary. Finding it wanting, I discovered the 19th century edition of Vocabulario de la lengua tagala (1860) compiled by Fathers Noceda and Sanlucar. I was not discouraged by the Spanish but was stumped by Latin. All the anatomical terms and all the rude words were not translated into Spanish, rather these were left in Latin to make them sound scientific. For instance, "puqui" was rendered as "Pars vaerenda mullieris, verbum turpissimum." Perhaps the friars wanted to make these words a little more difficult and one step less accessible in the dictionary.

Handling Noceda v San Lucar in my freshman year was quite an experience because it seemed medieval, with its goat-skin cover. From that time onwards, this vocabulario has become a lifelong friend and remains on my reference shelf beside the reprint of the 1613 Vocabulario by Pedro San Buenaventura.

This fascination with old words makes me hope that we will have a Filipino historical dictionary like the Oxford English Dictionary, which provides etymological and historical information on words and usage. Our historical dictionary should also contain Philippinisms taken from other languages and vice versa. This book will tell us, for example, that "salvage" refers to gangland executions or extrajudicial killings. In real English, "to salvage" means to save or recover something. Why does it have an opposite meaning in the Philippines? A historical dictionary will show that what looks like the English "salvage" actually came from the Spanish "salvaje" (savage),

the root of the Filipino verb "sinalbahe."

What about "false friends" like "seguro" which means sure or definite in Spanish, but in the Philippines means "maybe." To be sure is "sigurado."

There's also the colloquial expression "mag lamierda tayo" (let's go out)? We use it as a synonym for "mamasyal tayo" from "pasear" (to stroll), but "la mierda" actually means excrement. How did it get that way? The answer should be in a historical dictionary.

In the Casa Manila museum in Intramuros, visitors are introduced to the lifestyle of a wealthy 19th century household. Although located in Intramuros, the reconstructed house was based loosely on a house that once stood in Binondo, which was located extramuros or outside the walls of Intramuros or Spanish Manila. Many students who walk through this museum learn different Spanish terms for the different rooms and their contents like: cuarto, recibidor, ante sala, sala, kusina and comedor. Then we have a puzzle mentioned on the second page of "Noli me tangere": "Si subimos--nos encontraremos de golpe en una espaciosa estancia, llamada alli caida no se por que, que esta noche sirve de comedor al mismo tiempo que salon de la orquestra." (If we go up the stairs we will encounter a spacious place called caida, I don't know why, that tonight serves both as a dining area and the place for the orchestra.) Rizal didn't know why the caida is called a caida? Of course he did, but he teases his readers who unfortunately are too busy trying to finish the novel to notice and get the answer. In the latest translations of the "Noli," we have the following in the notes: Soledad Lacson-Locsin (1996) defines "caida" as "The spacious living room in houses of strong materials, which one encounters immediately at the top of the stairs." Virgilio Almario (1998) says: "Bahagi ng bahay na bato pagaakyat ng hagdanan at bago ang sala; para itong antesala at ginagamit sa pagsalubong

LOOKING

By AMBETH OCAMPO Inquirer

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.



ng panauhin at dagdag na espasyo kapag malaki ang pagtitipon." The Penguin edition (2006) defines it as "A broad, interior patio at the top of the stairs in a Filipino household of high standing." Rizal's confessed ignorance may come from the odd meaning of the word, which means "a fallen place," but the caida lies generally at the top of the stairs.

If one falls, he or she falls down not up, right? The word "caida," as Rizal uses it, does not exist in Spanish dictionaries either. These have the following: "caida de hojas" (falling leaves), "caida de arbol" (falling tree), "caida libre" (free fall), "caida del cabello" (literally, falling hair or hair loss), "caida del gobierno," which is the Philippine opposition's fervent wish for the government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Finally we have la Caida or the Fall in the Bible.

"Caida" or "Caido" shows the effect or the action of falling; it comes from the verb "caer." If we go back to Rizal, the "Noli" and the caida in Philippine homes, what do we see? Common sense dictates that when women ascended steps into a grand house, they lifted the hems of their long skirts. When they reached the top of the stairs, they released these, and thus the "fallen place" is where, literally, the skirts fell, hence the caida.

There is enough material for 10 years of columns here, but most of the information is truly obscure. However, this is what historical and etymological dictionaries are all about. May I live to see one compiled in my lifetime.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Unity March's Malou Berueco together with other Filipino guests workers, listen to the speakers during the forum.





STATUS FORUM

Unity Movement core organizers Conrad Ocampo, Dekada Movement's Hector Sevilla and Ed Elenzano aka Dragon Edong represent the Filipino community during Wednesday night's forum on the issue of long-term resident status for aliens in the CNMI.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of foreign workers show up during a forum called "Long-Term Resident Status: Issues and Possibilities for Change Under CNMI Law."



Close to 400 people, most of them Filipino long-term alien workers, attended Wednesday night's forum. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

COMPUTER

Congratulations to the 29 graduates of Basic Computer Operations Batch 41 of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office on Sunday,

eral Wilfredo Maximo

CLASS



2007 Saipan Singing Superstar Grand Champion Nikki Canape sings for the crowd at the first ever "Let Freedom Sing" Festival held Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





HOLY WEEK ACTIVITY

CNMI Power Organization's officers & members are gathered in the picture after the group's serving light brakfast at the Mt. Tapochao last Good Friday. This year is their 4th year doing this community service. The group wants to thank all the donors of the food and beverages. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





Jesse Castro and Faye Varias of Guam Business Magazine and Virgie Avendano (A welcome picture from the island of Tinian) taken inside JC Cafe Restaurant last April 1, 2008.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008 17

Youngstyle

For 14-year-old, joining the family business is a tall order

By BRENNA MALONEY (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—You know (how) when airplanes take off and you feel a little bit ... "—Stoyan Palazov makes a flipflop gesture with his hands— "yeah, it's the same feeling."

The 14-year-old acrobat is describing the moment when his feet leave the edge of the teeterboard and he shoots skyward to land (hopefully) on a human tower of acrobats behind him.

ber of the Palazovi Teeterboard Troupe now touring with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailev Circus. With as many as three shows a day on a two-year, 80city tour, Stoyan experiences this flip-flop feeling a lot.

He and his brother, Silvio, 21, are their family's seventh generation of circus performers. Their parents, Renato and Galina, train and guide the boys. The Palazovs are Bulgarian, as are most of the troupe's

Stoyan's teeterboard works like a seesaw. While he stands on the lower end, two other performers jump from a ladder onto the higher end. This shoots Stoyan, decked out in his blackand-white rhinestoned costume, into the air in a silvery streak.

Circus life is exciting, he says, but it's not all fun and games. The troupe is small, so everyone depends on everyone else.

"I can never get a day off," Stoyan says. "If there is a show



The Palazovi Teeterboard Troupe is a family affair, so Stoyan Palazov, 14, performs with his mother, father, and brother with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, now in Washington as part of a two-year, 80-city tour.

and I am not hurt, I am there."

Stoyan has been performing since he was 11. but has traveled with circuses all his life. He doesn't attend a regular school, and he admits that he gets homesick for his friends in Bulgaria, a country in southeastern Europe, and for baklava, a sweet pastry

At 125 pounds and a bit over 5 feet tall, Stoyan is lean and muscular. He practices for hours and hours. The triple somersault, for example, is difficult because "sometimes you get dizzy, and it's hard to count how many backflips you do."

Even more daunting is the

This cute

five-man-high tower of acrobats. Stoyan is the last to arrive, landing on the shoulders of his brother, more than 20 feet in the air.

The trick requires balance, skill and trust. "If you go too (far) back, you can ruin everything and everyone can fall down. You have to go straight. You have to be perfect," he explains.

Has he ever toppled the tower? "Yeah." Many times? "Yeah," he says, smiling. "Everyone (makes) mistakes. I am learning."

As Stoyan ages, his role in the act is changing: "I'm too small to catch (other performers) and too big to flip.'

RINGLING BROS. **SHOW FACTS**

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

- It takes 12 hours to assemble the stage and rigging, and five hours to take it down.
- Powering the show requires 3 miles of cable.
- There are 21 acts, 98 performers and 350 costume changes. Also: 9 musicians, 26 management/staff people and 70 crew members.
- The performers come from 11 countries; 44 of the 98 performers are with this circus
- the circus visits.
- pounds of ice is needed for snow cones.
- equipment.
- ■About 1,000 hours are spent traveling each year. The average distance between circus cities is 350 miles.
- A clown who does a pie gag will get about 1,120 pies in the face each year.

So he is setting his sights

"I want to jump on stilts,"

in which he would spring from the tee-

The safety

lines are not



After being launched off a teeterboard, Stoyan Palazov lands on the shoulders of his brother, Silvio, during a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & **Bailey Circus** rehearsal in Washington. used during a regular performance. THE WASHINGTON

for the first time. ■About 1,000 pounds of popcorn is consumed in each city

- At each show, 15,000
- The Red Unit circus (the one that's in Washington) travels on a 58-car train that transports 4,335 tons of

elsewhere.

he confides. He describes an ambitious trick he wants to try

> terboard and do aerial flips while wearing stilts. What's it like to land a

perfect move? "It feels good," he says. "It feels like you are the king!"



The Palazovi Teeterboard Troupe includes (front row from left) Stoyan's father, Renato Palazov; brother, Silvio Palazov; Stoyan; Omar Dudley; (center) Stoyan's mother, Galina Velenova; (back row) Momchil Ivanov; Simeon Yordanov; and Ivaylo Hristov.

Name the baby kiwi

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

It's a boy! And the National Zoo wants your help naming This cute little North Island

brown kiwi chick needs a name. He was hatched March 7—the third such chick in the zoo's history—and is a busy little guy. He tried to walk on his first day and refused to keep still during his weigh-in!

There are five kiwi species, all from New Zealand. In keeping with that heritage, he will be given a Maori name. The Maori are the native people of New Zealand.

The three name choices

- Hiwa (HEE-wah), meaning cheerful and alert.
- Koa (KHO-uh), happy, iubilant.
- Titi (TEE-tee), ray of

Voting takes place until April 22 at www.nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/birds/ kiwi. You can also follow the chick's progress via webcam. (Note: Kiwis are active at night, so check in before your bedtime.)



little North Island brown kiwi was hatched March 7, the third such chick in the history of Washington's National Zoo. The zoo is asking for help in naming the kiwi, which in keeping with its New Zealand heritage, will have a Maori name.

CONTEST CORNER

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Share Your Art With the World

Would you like to see your drawing on a holiday greeting card? One lucky artist will have that experience this year, thanks to the Pier 1 Imports/UNICEF Greeting Card Contest.

But hurry! Your original art must be received by April 12! This contest is for artists 14 and younger. The theme

this year is "Making Spirits Bright." You can get all the details, and entry forms, at www.pier1.com and www. unicefusa.org.

Be Green to Your School

Make your school eco-friendly with up to \$250,000 in improvements from the Ford Motor Co. and Paige Hemmis, a designer for the TV show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

Submit a short essay by May 18 to www.educatetoescape.com and this summer your school might get solar paneling, vegetation roofing, energy-efficient lighting and a special covering for the athletic fields. (Oh, and a 2008 Ford Escape Hybrid will be given away, too, but what would you do with THAT?)

This contest is for K-12 schools.

Breslin branches out in 'Nim's Island'

By SCOTT MOORE

© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It's easy to think that a young actress is just like the characters she plays—especially when they are sweet and spunky and

So, are those traits an accurate description of 11-year-old Abigail Breslin?

"I'm not so innocent," she says, confessing to a month in which she had 365 text messages, far exceeding her limit.

In the family-friendly movie "Nim's Island," which opens in theaters Friday, Abigail plays a feisty, fun-loving girl living on a hidden-away South Pacific island who—when she can't reach her father by phone—seeks help

'NIM'S ISLAND'

'Nim's Island" the movie is based on "Nim's Island" the book, by Wendy Orr. Orr was born in Canada and lives in Australia. © 2008, The Washington Post

Meet Abigail

Born: April 14, 1996.

Favorite pizza topping: Pepperoni.

Favorite TV shows: "American Idol," "Hannah Montana" and "I Love Lucy."

Favorite movie: "Meet Me in St. Louis," a 1944 musical. Worst thing about being an actress: "Crying scenes. ... I just think about the situation that the character is in."

Pets: Two dogs, two cats, one turtle.

Collects: She has all of the American Girl dolls—fitting, since this fall she will star in the movie "Kit Kittredge: An American

Other roles: She and her brother, Spencer, were in "Raising Helen" and "The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause." She also was the voice of Rosebud in "Air Buddies." (© 2008, The Washington Post)

by e-mail.

You see, Abigail IS just like the characters she plays. (We'll ignore the fact that Nim asks a fictional adventure hero to come to her aid.)

Abigail already has appeared in more than a dozen movies. They include the R-rated "Little Miss Sunshine," for which she

nomination for playing an unlikely beauty pageant contestant. But she says Nim is her most challenging role.

In the comedy-adventure, shot in Australia, Abigail shows a wide range of emotions. She also has a lot of action scenes: swimming (and yelling) underwater with a sea lion, fightreceived an Academy Award ing with a sword, climbing a mountain and riding on a zip line. ("It was fun but a little bit scary—I'm afraid of heights," she said.)

"I had a lot of training with the animals and the stunt crew," Abigail says. "They had to teach me how not to run like a girl."

She also had to learn how to share the spotlight with some really big co-stars—two 400-pound sea lions who shared the role of Selkie—plus several pelicans and five bearded dragon lizards.

That was scary, she said, but not like you might think:

"One day on set I was doing a scene" with a sea lion and a lizard, she said, "and the sea lion, Friday, stepped up on the bench and put his head on top of the lizard. I thought he was going to eat him."

Not to worry. In fact, the movie ended up with more bearded dragons than at the start.

A lizard named Goblet laid about a dozen eggs during filming. The first to hatch was named Nim. The second one was called



In the family-friendly movie "Nim's Island," which opens in theaters Friday, Abigail Breslin plays a feisty, fun-loving girl living on a hidden-away

Yoga for dogs: People, pets relax together

By KATHERINE SHAVER

WASHINGTON—When Ashley Storm wants to chill, she does yoga. And when she wants to help her Labrador mix relax, she has Loki join in.

Yes, a dog doing yoga. It's called what else?—doga. People help their dogs into yoga poses and then rub or nuzzle them while the dogs stretch or just hang out.

"They stretch naturally, like we do in our yoga poses," says Storm, a yoga instructor and co-owner of Hot Yoga in Chevy Chase, Md. "It just feels good to them. It feels good to us, too."

Doga (pronounced DOE-guh) is popular in New York and London. Washington-area kids are getting in on the act, too. Nathan Jester, 10, recently did doga with Dixie, a friend's fox terrier mix, at Storm's studio.

"It's fun," Nathan said. "It's really calming for both of us. She (Dixie) likes getting the attention because she's



THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the goals of doga is to give focused attention to your pet. Here, Hannah Mangel, 14, does the mountain pose with her dog Dixie at the Hot Yoga in Chevy Chase, Md.



getting played with at the same time."

In doga poses, the dogs look a lot like they do when they loll about and appear to be happy. It's no coincidence, Storm says, that a common yoga stretch for people is called "downward-facing dog."

In the chair pose, dogs sit on their hind legs with their front paws in the air while a person holds them from behind. In the chaturanga pose, dogs lie on their abdomens while someone strokes their backs. In the savasana relaxation pose, they lie on their backs while someone rubs their belly. Aaaaahhhhh.

If dogs don't want to do doga, it's fun to have them hang out on a mat while you do yoga, Storm says.

The most important part of doga is spending quality time together. Doga helps dogs and people bond, Storm Loki about four years ago, shortsays, because they have to focus on each other. No TV or video games. No homework worries. Just you and your dog stretching and relaxing.

The result: Busy, highly scheduled kids have to slow down, and couch-potato kids get up and do something.

Leah Enelow, 13, of Bethesda, Md., recently tried doga with her

dog," Storm says.

about it.

■ Rub or massage your dog with deep strokes. Be careful not to pinch.

dogs, Chance and Sadie, at Storm's

studio. She liked it. "I love doing

anything with my dogs and spend-

ly after a friend gave her a book

Loki, a rescue dog who had been

abused, used to get so stressed out

around strangers that she would

shake. But after hanging around the

yoga studio and doing doga, she

seems far more relaxed and happy.

"Everyone says she's a different

Storm started doing doga with

ing time with them," she said.

- Focus on making yourself calm. That will relax your dog, too.
- Don't try doga with an aggressive dog. (© 2008, The Washing-

KIDSDAY ADVISER

Kids answer kids' problems

By Kidsday Staff Reporters © 2008, NEWSDAY

DEAR KIDSDAY: I am having a big problem with a kid in my class. I am 11, and there is a kid who is always picking on me during recess. I've tried to stay away from him, but he finds me. What can I do?—Scared

DEAR SCARED: Don't be scared. It is time to act. Start by telling your classroom teacher and the aides at the school. Let them know what this kid is doing to you. We think you are doing the right thing by staying away from him, but we also know you can't hide all the time. If you can, be with friends who would help you, too. If he starts to come after you, just start screaming! Let your friends come and help you, and then find an adult. At some point, the principal has to find out, and then his parents will get involved. Good luck.

DEAR KIDSDAY: I have a problem. My teacher assigned my class to do a project. My teacher also assigned us to groups, and I want to be in the group with this supercute guy. Instead, I am in a group with a geeky boy, and he is very weird. Can I ask my teacher to change groups?-From Cutie to Geeky

DEAR CUTIE TO GEEKY: We don't think you are going to get your way if you ask. We also think that you might want to talk to the geeky boy. He may not be that geeky; you just don't know him very well. You may end up doing a better job on the project working with him. We all agree you should be nice to him and get the project done. As one kid on the panel said, "Just deal with it." If you like the other boy, you should find your own way of talking with him.

Do you have a problem? A panel of kids will try to solve it for you. Send your letters to: Dear Kidsday, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747-4250, or e-mail us: kidsday@newsday.com.

Tips for doing doga

- Take a walk with your dog first. It will burn off energy and calm you
- Don't force your dog into any position. Help him stretch in ways he already does.

■ Avoid touching areas that can be tender, such as paws and ears. Be aware if your dog doesn't like being picked up or rubbed in certain places. Be gentle with older dogs that might have arthritis, and take care with bigger dogs so that you don't hurt yourself trying to hold them in

A JUICY JOURNEY! Can you help this little bug find his way across the mazey surface of this sticky pineapple to the nectar oozing from the stem?

ODD MAN OUT! To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on

Answer: Abrasive. The other words all contain a "number word" within themselves. (1. One. 2. Ten. 3. Eight, 5. Two.)

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words that are divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from a word in the left column to a word in the right.

6. Endears. Answers: 1. Betrays. 2. Tapered. 3. Cowled. 4. Cornice. 5. Midget.

BET) ICE TAPE GET COW (RAYS CORN RED

MID EARS

END LED

1. STONE 2. STENO 3. FREIGHTER 4. ABRASIVE 5. DRIFTWOOD

A WORD BRIDGE!

The bridge above contains 10 supporting une bridge above contains 10 supporting by words. We give you the first letter of each by word plus plenty of hints.

- 1. An unprincipled man.
- 2. A pointed missile.
- 3. An artist would use one. 4. A western card game.
- 5. What a musician looks for.
- 6. An actor who overacts.
- A stork-like wading bird.
- 8. A short space of time.
- 9. Found under a ship.
- 10. To throw something in a high arc.

Answers: 1. Cad. 2. Dart. 3. Easel. 4. Faro. 5. Gig. 6. Ham. 7. Ibis. 8. Jiffy. 9. Keel. 10. Lob.

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

- It was W.C. Fields who made the following observation: "Women are like elephants to me. I like to look at them, but I wouldn't want to own one."
- Those who play the word game Scrabble (and some others) may realize that the most frequently used letter in the English language is "e," and a few may even be aware that No. 2 and No. 3 are "t" and "a," respectively. Hardly anyone knows the full ranking, though. So, for your enlightenment, here is the entire alphabet in order of how often each letter is used in English: etadinshrdlucmpfywgbvkjxzq.
- Experts on feline anatomy say that a normal cat has 230 bones in its body, but it doesn't have a collarbone.
- The longest regularly scheduled, nonstop commercial airline flight in the world is 18 hours long, from Newark, N.J., to the island nation of Singapore in Southeast Asia.
- To date, no president of the United States has been an only child.
- Visiting the Grand Canyon is something every American should do at least once in his or her life, but there are a couple of things that should be kept in mind when making the trip. If you go hiking and get into dire straits, an emergency rescue will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000. Also, an average of five people fall to their deaths in the Grand Canyon every year.
- Pretty much everyone has wisdom teeth at least until some dentist removes them but they're not known as wisdom teeth everywhere. In Romania, they're called "mind teeth," in Turkey they're known as "20-year teeth," in Korea they're called "love teeth," and in Japan they're referred to as "unknownto-parent teeth."

Thought for the Day: "The hardest thing to understand is why we can understand anything at

all." -- Albert Einstein

L B O Y V S Q N K H E B Y W T ROLGJGEBYWURPNK G I G(K N O C K O U T)D B R R ZNXGVOSGQKUOMEE KIIGNENOYCOAVTK YWUHSIOPGEGONAC LJHFSEPCANNYHOO X V U S S I Q M P R I O N L L MKAJHFFSUNOBHFB EPUTESCTWDGBZPY X V U T R Q P O M D A E R P S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bingo Blocker Bonus Dumping	DWS Fishing Floater Going out	Knockout Non-go Passing Phoney	Setup Spread Turnover
--------------------------------------	--	---	-----------------------------

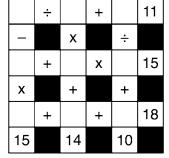
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

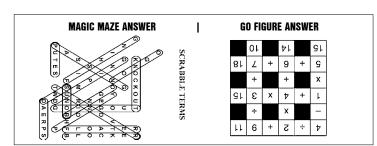
DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult *** GO FIGURE!



1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 9

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How much reward for good behavior?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I really appreciated your series on basic training for dogs, but I have a question. You recommend rewarding a dog with a food treat when it performs a task properly. Now, I recently read that the American Kennel Club no longer allows food treats in the show ring, and I wonder if that is because too many treats are not healthy? Should I just use lots of praise as a reward when training my dog? —Sara L., Pittsburgh

DEAR SARA: I'm not sure exactly why the AKC put a stop to treats in the show ring (apparently this ban applies to obedience and tracking events). Sure, too many treats may be detrimental to a dog's health. But an over-reliance on rewards can also be a detriment.

Patricia Gail Burnham, in her new book "Treats, Play, Love: Make Dog Training Fun for You and Your Best Friend" (St. Martin's Griffin, \$14.95), explains that dogs that expect a reward after obeying each command quickly become confused when they don't get it. They rely on the reward to tell them they're right. She recommends gradually spacing out the rewards, giving them after every second action, then after every third, and so on.



Does this method matter for pet owners who aren't going to show their dogs at an event? Maybe. What's important, no matter what the reward is or how often it is given, is that the training is consistent and positive. Certainly, spacing out treats in the home environment can help keep a dog at a healthy weight, and training it to obey commands without expecting food every time can be quite beneficial—as long as it sees some kind of reward at a regular point in the day.

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Bring spring indoors with blooming branches

t's time to start thinking spring. Feel the fresh energy of the new season by taking a nature walk with your family. Help the kids observe the changes taking place around them by pointing out the buds growing on bushes and trees. Then bring branches indoors to bloom and create a cheery centerpiece. Here's how:

Step one: Clip branches

Forsythia, tamarack, weeping willow, silver-maple, apple and box-elder branches work well for this activity. Help your children clip off a few branches (they should be about 20 inches long) with garden shears.

Lay the branches on a hard, flat surface and let the kids pound the cut ends with a hammer. This will help the branches absorb water and will encourage the blooms. Set them in a sturdy vase or a pitcher filled with water. For

extra fun, arrange them in a water-filled jar, and place the jar inside a clay pot you paint yourselves.

Step two: Paint a clay pot

Choose a clean clay flowerpot that is wider and slightly taller than your jar. Set it on newspaper and let your child paint the outside of the pot with tempera paint or acrylic paints. When the paint is dry, set the branch-filled jar in the clay pot. Fill the gap between the jar and the pot with moss. New leaves and blossoms should appear on the branches in a week or two.

If your child has a spring birthday, tie brightly wrapped candy or party favors to the branches to make special "blooms"



for the party guests to take home.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Pap, snap thyself: In the Spears zone

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clint Brewer is striking a pose.

The paparazzo has just parked a black BMW sedan in the middle of Otsego Street in North Hollywood. He hops out to get a quick photo when Britney Spears enters her favorite dance studio.

Then two police cruisers pull up. As a stern-looking LAPD officer writes a \$50 parking ticket, the blonde British photographer's colleagues and competitors are playfully snapping away. At him.

"Over the shoulder!" JFX Direct shooter Ulises Rios calls out. Brewer obliges with a red carpet-style turn. He smiles and pulls a hood up coyly to his face.

The photographers that trail Spears day and night are no longer faceless pack animals; they share in a growing edge of her spotlight. Police and deputies are keeping an eye on them, making arrests in recent weeks when paparazzi block sidewalks or disrupt traffic. An LA city councilman is proposing a "personal safety zone" to keep them away from targets.

Newcomer Hollywood. tv is making waves with a splashy Lamborghini-driving founder and brand-building business plan. One of the most well-known agencies, X17, faces questions about its aggressive tactics.

Then there is the curious case of Adnan Ghalib, who works for Brewer's agency Finalpixx. After chasing Spears with the rest of the Brit Pack, he switched to the other side of the lens and dated her for months.

(Their current relationship status is unclear. "Everyone thought at first that it was a setup, but he really cares about her," JFX co-founder Arnold Cousart said of Ghalib, a competitor and friend.)

Plenty of people have been riding "the Britney wave," in the words of Hollywood.tv founder Sheeraz Hasan. ("It's been a big blessing," he said.) Despite her appearance on "How I Met Your Mother" and release of new music video, her mostviewed online videos remain community called The Summit. shaky street footage that often It's a tactic called "doorstep-

24 episode of the cult CBS sitcom.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An executive producer for "How I Met Your Mother" says he's open to having Britney Spears return for another cameo. "We always said, 'You know, if her character pops, we'll bring her back," Carter Bays told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I thought she was great. I was very proud of that episode."

Spears, 26, garnered good reviews for her guest starring role as a goofy receptionist in the March features as much of the swarming photographers as it does of for Spears. Spears.

I'M A-CRAVE FOR YOU

There's still good money in it. One agency leader said two of his paparazzi made \$100,000 each last year, solely through sales of Spears photos.

Though paparazzi are disparaged by mainstream media, discouraged by the cops and despised by the same public that consumes their product, there's at least one person who may not want to see them go away: Spears herself. The fallen pop star knows some paparazzi by name, and occasionally sends shout-outs to specific agencies. They are part of her everyday life and, strangely, part of her social circle.

"She's addicted to the paparazzi," said Gary Morgan, head of Splash News in Los Angeles.

Their images captured her spectacular free fall: The nounderwear car exit, the umbrella attack, the head shaving, the hospital gurney ride (posted on JFX paparazzo Galo Ramirez's MySpace page with the caption "cha-ching! cha-ching!!").

Lately, they've shown the beats of her recovery: Shopping for jeans, teaching kids at Millennium Dance Complex, scoping out designer gown shop Monique Lhuillier on Melrose Place.

And here's how the Brit Pack knew she was headed all these places: They never stopped following her. Most paparazzi, in Los Angeles and worldwide, zero in on celeb whereabouts by cruising the streets, soliciting tips from valet parkers and waiters, or camping outside a trendy restaurant or nightclub.

The approach to Spears is dif-

At least four of the celebrity photo and video agencies— JFX, X17, Hollywood.tv, and Finalpixx—have for at least six months directed their shooters to park along scenic Mulholland Drive and wait for her to leave her home in a hilltop gated

The show ended with Spears'

character flirting with womanizer

On the following episode,

which aired Monday, the show

introduced a "mystery woman"

who's been sabotaging Barney's

usually successful attempts to

Asked if Spears might turn

out to be the saboteur, Bays

said: "Could be. There's no rea-

son why not." He also suggested

pick up ladies.

Barney (Neil Patrick Harris).

Bays said it was surreal to see Spears on the set.

"It was totally weird. ... I think we have a very, like, kind of Midwestern homey vibe here on the show, and it was strange to suddenly have helicopters circling," he said.

So will she or won't she come

ping," taken to 24/7 extremes

They leave engines running for hours on end, ready to give chase if Spears' vehicle is spotted heading down the curvy roads into Beverly Hills or the San Fernando Valley. The men inside stare blankly into rearview mirrors, ready for pursuit.

RELEASE THE HOUNDS

At just after 1 p.m. on a recent

side agencies.

Sandro, a Brazilian photographer for X17 who refused to give his last name, sat in his black two-door Ford on Mulholland when two SUVs on either side of him suddenly made U-turns and sped off.

He sat mystified for about 20 seconds, then got a chirp— "Laurel Canyon"—and zipped off after them.

A cop following a Spears paparazzi chase simply wouldn't know where to begin. Sandro

like a centipede," said Sergio Huapaya, the 34-year-old coowner of JFX Direct. He said his car is heavily damaged from chase accidents.

Camera memory cards and mini-DV tapes are dropped off with runners immediately after any Spears sighting, to be processed at agency offices.

"Speed is everything," Hasan of Hollywood.tv said. At his office, tapes are edited, then distributed in a matter of hours to Web sites and major media

with sheer numbers. Run by Francois and Brandy Navarre, it consists of dozens of streetsmart former valets or waiters, many from Brazil.

Rivals say X17 is responsible over the last four years for making old-school undercover paparazzi—using stakeouts and long zoom lenses—largely irrelevant. It's a rare moment nowadays that Spears doesn't know she's being photographed. Instead, X17 and other new-school shooters swarm and shove to get the best shots.

This L.A. story merges with another one: immigration.

"There's a lot of illegals out there, and X17 has a lot of them," said Morgan of Splash. François Navarre has said that many paparazzi are in the process of becoming legal immigrants.

"It used to be all white guys," Cousart said. "Now it's like 'We Are The World' out there."

Veteran paparazzi like Frank Griffin, who runs the Bauer-Griffin agency, complain that the new LA shooters know nothing about their cameras or subjects.

"I call them knuckle-scraping mouth breathers," Griffin said. "They can either make \$1,500 a month running around with cameras, or they can go rob a 7-Eleven."

"We see them as the scourge of the problem," Cousart said in one breath, before acknowledging in the next that his guys join in the scrum: "We've got to play or we're going to starve."

They won't—so long as there's interest in the pictures they provide.

Paparazzi Craig Williams, of Hollywood.TV, is seen through the side mirror of during a stake out near Britney Spears' house in Los Angeles Sunday, March 16, 2008.

weekday, two men recline in one of five SUVs parked on a shoulder west of Spears' home (more vehicles are to the east). Electronica blasts from its open windows. The passenger, thin with bags under his eyes, says they'd been on the job for 20 hours.

"We can't really talk," he muttered. "We're too tired."

When they do talk, nearly all use "chirp" functions on cell phones that allow instant communication. During the down periods, there's friendly chat: The TMZ guy calls the Hollywood.tv guy to find out the latest rumors, for example.

But when a chase is on, competitive juices flow, and information flows solely in-

Will Britney Spears return to 'Mother'?

actress Sarah Chalke, who guest starred alongside Spears.

"I don't know," he said. "I don't know the answer to that."

zipped past two cars in the middle of a narrow Mulholland intersection. Later, a green SUV with a massive dent on the passenger side passed several cars on the crowded two-lane road.

When they hit Melrose, where Spears' black Cadillac Escalade made a left hand turn, 10 cars in the Brit Pack ran a red light en masse. Honks and yells came from angry rush hour drivers that paparazzi refer to as "civilians."

"The chases are ridiculously dangerous," Hollywood. tv paparazzo Craig Williams acknowledged. His boss purchased a Volkswagen Beetle come so valuable he can sell it for use on the job. Others drive rented SUVs or leased BMWs with free maintenance, handy because the downhill racing necessitates constant brake work.

"Sometimes we do have to take a yellow or red (light), but you know, to me it looks outlets ranging from YouTube to "Entertainment Tonight" to, yes, The Associated Press.

Outlets are free to run the footage free of charge in exchange for including the Hollywood.tv logo. Funded by 22 investors from LA, London, India and Dubai, the 33year-old entrepreneur pays his paparazzi at least \$7,000 a month, and is known to make secret payments to rival agency photographers in exchange for Spears information.

He's burning through money, but said he hopes the Hollywood.tv brand will soon beoff for "over a billion.

READY FOR HER CLOSE-UP

As Hollywood.tv has come to dominate video coverage with its business model, X17 dominates photo coverage of Spears

MARKET, DRIVEN

Spears is shopping with her mother at the Miss Sixty jeans store at the corner of Melrose and Crescent Heights. Twenty-six paparazzi line up against store windows, pointing cameras inside from every possible angle.

Catcalls come from passing vehicles: "Get a life!" and "Leave her the (expletive) alone, you idiots!"

But also, over and over again, there's the question the one that stems from the same curiosity keeping glossy celebrity magazines alive: "Who's in there?"

One photographer responds: "Who do you think?"

Lincoln letter sets auction record

NEW YORK (AP)—Abraham Lincoln's heartfelt reply to a group of youngsters who asked him to free America's "little slave children" has sold for \$3.4 million.

Sotheby's auction house said Thursday that the 1864

letter set a record for a Lincoln manuscript, as well as for any presidential and American manuscript.

It was purchased by an American private collector bidding over the telephone.

Lincoln's hand-penned re-

ply is contained in a letter to a woman who mailed the children's petition from Concord, Mass.

In it, Lincoln says: "Please tell these little people I am very glad their young hearts are so full of

just and generous sympathy."

Gibson wants no 'Passion' disclosure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson, who's being sued by a writer over payment for the "The Passion of the Christ" screenplay, wants to keep financial information about the blockbuster movie out of the public eye.

Benedict Fitzgerald claimed in his February lawsuit that Gibson misled him into accepting a small payment for writing

the script by saying the movie for the film," which the lawsuit would cost between \$4 million and \$7 million.

Fitzgerald, shared screenwriting credits with Gibson, claimed he agreed to "a salary substantially less than what he would have taken had he known the true budget



Gibson

duction company asked the court

In court filings Tuesday, attorneys for Gibson and his pro-

claimed was \$25 mil-

lion to \$50 million.

The lawsuit claims

fraud, breach of con-

tract and unjust en-

richment, and seeks

unspecified damages.

to seal the movie's financial records and only allow Fitzgerald's lawyers access to them. The information details the movie's domestic and foreign box office receipts, production costs and distribution expenses.

The defense is also seeking to dismiss some of Fitzgerald's claims, including fraud, which if proven would allow Fitzgerald to seek punitive damages.

Campbell reportedly arrested at Heathrow

Campbell was arrested at Heath-

row Airport's Terminal 5 on Thursday for allegedly spitting at a police officer, Sky News reported. Police said a 37-year-old woman was arrested at the terminal on suspicion of assaulting police.

Metropolitan Police spokesman refused to identify the woman, or say whether the incident took place

Lil Jon gets into

winemaking

chardonnay and merlot.

stuff (for parties) and we did it, and people was like, 'Hey,

Lil Jon acknowledges that

he's no wine connoisseur.

"I'm not no 'drink wine ev-

ery day' kind of dude," he

said in a telephone interview.

"I'm not like an expert, so don't ask me no questions ...

And he knows what he

likes, including white wines

and dessert wines (wine-

maker Alison Crowe is re-

sponsible for the label, made

Little Jonathan Winery

is not Lil Jon's first venture

into the drink market: He

launched Crunk!!! Energy

Drink a few years back: The

concoction took its name

from the rap style he made

famous. But he is treating

his venture into winemak-

ing with a more serious ap-

proach, which is why he de-

cided against using his stage

"My full name is Jona-

than," the Atlanta-based artist

said. "The wine is more na-

ture: I wanted to not just have

a direct connection, but make

it just a little bit more upscale

than regular 'Lil Jon.' ... This

is not no ghetto Boone's Farm;

this is some real wine.'

name for the label.

I just like the taste."

in California).

it's pretty nice.""

(AP)—Naomi inside the terminal or aboard a Aponte, left Heathrow's police plane. He spoke on condition

of anonymity, in line with police policy. BAA PLC, the

company that runs Heathrow, didn't immediately turn calls seeking British comment. Airways PLC, the terminal's sole oc-

cupant, referred questions to BAA and London police.

Campbell's publicist, Selina

station, where the model had been taken, just before 10 p.m. but told waiting reporters she had not seen the British model, who had been due to fly to Los Angeles.

"We have all seen the reports but I don't know anything," Aponte said. "Naomi was flying to L.A. She has family and friends over there and is always going over."

In January 2007, Campbell pleaded guilty in New York City to misdemeanor assault for throwing her cell phone at her maid in a dispute over a missing pair of jeans. She was ordered to do community service and attend a two-day anger-management program.

Campbell pleaded guilty in Toronto in 2000 to an assault charge for beating an assistant while making a film in Canada in 1998. Under an agreement with prosecutors, Campbell expressed remorse and was released without punishment or a criminal record.

Seinfeld unhurt after Hamptons car wreck

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Jerry Seinfeld was in a harrowing rollover wreck but LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was unhurt after the brakes on turns out Lil Jon drinks more one of his vintage cars failed. than crunk juice—the larger-

Seinfeld was driving alone than-life producer and rapper when the brakes on his 1967 has started his own wine label, Fiat BTM stopped working Satoffering selections including urday evening, East Hampton Town Police Chief Todd Sarris "It kind of came out of told the New York Post. Seinnowhere," Lil Jon told The feld tried the emergency brake, Associated Press of his new to no avail, and then swerved to venture, Little Jonathan keep the car from careening into Winery. "We were just going to do some private label

an intersection. Sarris said.

The two-door sedan flipped over and came to a stop just yards from the highway, Sarris said, adding that the comic's maneuver "probably avoided a very serious accident."

The wreck was attributed to mechanical failure, and no summonses were issued, Sarris said. Seinfeld, 53, did not require medical attention and returned to his East Hampton home.

"He was a little shocked when

he walked in and it started to dawn on him what happened," said his wife, Jessica.

The comedian took the crash in stride

"Because I know there are kids out there. I want to make sure they all know that driving without braking is not something I recommend, unless you have professional clown training or a comedy background, as I do," Seinfeld said. "It is not something I plan to make a habit of."



In this undated photo provided by The New Kids On The Block, the group is pictured in Los Angeles, from left to right, Joey McIntyre, Jonathan Knight, Donnie Wahlberg, Jordan Knight and Danny Wood

New Kids on the Block to reunite

BOSTON (AP)—They may be pushing 40, but the New Kids are returning to the block. The Boston boy band New Kids on the Block, which sold 70 million albums in the 1980s and early 1990s, has reunited and plans to release a new album and go on tour. The reunion comes 20 years after the release of the group's multi-platinum album, "Hanging Tough."

The group released a new photo Wednesday and reportedly will appear on the Today show Friday morning—the same time an unmarked countdown clock on http://www.nkotb.com ends.

"The fan response to this has been incredible," band member Donnie Wahlberg told the Boston Herald.

Wahlberg said he was convinced to get back together with his former bandmates—Joey McIntyre, brothers Jordan and Jonathan Knight and Danny Wood-when they decided to record new music. Wahlberg said he wrote 80 percent of the new material with McIntyre and Jordan Knight.

"I had no interest going out on a nostalgia tour and singing the same material," said Wahlberg, 38.

But he added, "We absolutely will do the old songs for sure."

Producer Maurice Starr formed the group in Boston in the 1980s, hoping to recreate the success he had with another teen group from the city, New Edition.

At the height of their popularity, New Kids sold out world tours, marketed millions of dollars in merchandise and spawned a Saturday morning cartoon.

Close friendships slip away in spite of woman's devotion

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced woman with two children. Throughout my life, I have always liked having one close female friend and a few other casual acquaintances. But these close relationships last only five to 10 years.

Abby, I am a "do anything for you," truly devoted friend. I am totally accommodating, to the point that I rearrange my activities and forgo my own wishes -- the "whatever you want to do" type. In spite of this, these "best



friend" relationships, which theoretically shouldn't end, eventually do. The other person is usually not quite as committed as I am, even though she likes my company.

Why does this happen when I try so hard and go out of my way to maintain the friendship?

TRUE BLUE IN ALLENTOWN, PA.

DEAR TRUE BLUE: Not all friendships last forever. Many have a beginning, a middle and an end, and people drift apart. Perhaps if you spread your friendship around rather than depend on just one person, and actually listened to your own needs rather than continually sacrificing them, your relationships would become more mutual. With more of the usual give-and-take, they might last longer.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14, and I'm really worried about my best friend, "Allie." I moved from our old school to a school nearby, so I haven't talked to her as much lately as I used to. Allie doesn't call often, but when she does, she tells me about talking to boys online. This is how she met her current boyfriend, who is our age and lives in Texas. (We live in Ohio.)

Allie and this boy talk on the phone often, and it scares me. I'm scared she and someone she meets online will get together, and it will go badly.

She has been telling guys online that she's a cheerleader at our local college, which she isn't, of course. She's in ninth grade like I am. Should I tell her parents what's going on, or someone else? My mom and dad think I should call the police. What do you think, Abby?

FEARFUL IN ALLIANCE, OHIO

DEAR FEARFUL: Allie shouldn't be lying about her age and pretending to be someone she isn't. And there's no guarantee that the "boys" she's talking to aren't 45, married and also lying about THEIR ages. Allie appears to be vulnerable, gullible and looking for trouble. And that's why your mom and dad should tip off her parents about what's going on, before trouble finds Allie.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, "Josie" who lives in another state where the time is two hours earlier than where I live. I have asked her please not to call my home after 8 p.m. my time because this is when I am preparing my two children, ages 3 and 1, for bed. My daughter is a very light sleeper.

Josie feels I am being silly. She says other people she calls in my area don't put such limitations on her. She has suggested I "just unplug the phone if I don't want it to ring."

Abby, this has created a huge issue between us, and I need to know if my request is unreasonable.

YOUNG MOM, BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

DEAR YOUNG MOM: Your request is perfectly reasonable, and if your "friend" was not so self-centered, she would understand that and be more cooperative. You should not have to unplug your phone to prevent her from disturbing your children, because if you did you might be unavailable in case of an emergency.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby-Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

SATURDAY IS THE BEST DAY OF THE WEEK. NO DEMANDS AT ALL! FREEDOM!





By Bill Waterson

Garfield®







Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis







By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD

		Dy Lugo	ene Snejje
ACROSS 1 Super- market section	36 Give as an example 37 — -di-dah	DOWN 1 Eyebrow shape 2 Greek	21 Atmosphere 23 Bearded antelope
6 Upolu Island denizen	38 Abner's adjective 40 London-	vowel 3 Jazz style 4 Gen.,	24 Rd. 25 Mountain
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56							57						

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mitch Pileggi, 56; Agnetha Faltskog, 58; Colin Powell, 71; Roger Corman, 82

Happy Birthday: You are likely to rid yourself this year of a lot of the people and situations that have been bringing you down or holding you back. Then you will be able to move freely in a more suitable direction. If you are aggressive but reasonable in your pursuits, you will find a clear passage to a brighter future. Your numbers are 5, 16 20 26 36 43



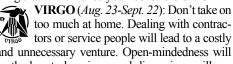
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your excitability will be hard to control and going to extremes will get you in trouble. Take time to assess situations. You will get upset, angry and stressed out if you act before you think.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen to what's being said but don't get all excited about the potential of something you know little about. Someone will exaggerate in order to interest you. Don't be led astray by temptation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep building momentum and you will recover anything you may have lost recently. Your do-it-yourself plan should turn out well, enabling you to get things done according to your own specifications. A new acquaintance will complement your plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have two options, making it difficult for you to decide. You have to take action or you will appear to be a pushover. Being attentive or willing to compromise will be required. ••

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A day trip will prove to be good in terms of what you learn and whom you meet. A romantic encounter is looking good but don't brag or exaggerate. Shopping may be costly but you will find something that will enhance your looks. **2000**



and unnecessary venture. Open-mindedness will be the key to happiness and discussions will enable you to see both sides of the coin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A push-pull situation is likely to occur. Focus on something you like to do, rather than dealing with someone who is putting demands on you. Discord will result if you are aggressive. A challenge will take you by surprise. •••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be anxious to get a move on it but lastminute travel plans may be altered, leaving you in a decision-making position. Do what you can over the Internet or phone. You can accomplish just as much if you are precise. ••••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions may be difficult to control but, if you set the stage and complete what you say you are going to, you will win in the end. Don't be a quitter and you will prove to everyone that you are a responsible leader. **2000**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be thinking too big or underestimating the value of someone you need by your side. Don't be too quick to make a deci-



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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sion that may influence a partnership. Reevaluate your position and your future. 😂

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have plenty of options. There is money to be made if you take part in a project that calls for your expertise. Don't sell yourself short, thinking you don't have as much to offer as everyone else. **OOOO**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The people you meet at events or through activities you participate in will change your life. Someone you thought you could trust will let you down. Do not reveal your position on any matter that could damage your reputation.

Birthday Baby: You can convince anyone of anything. You are charming, a hard worker and up for any challenge. You are dedicated to your beliefs and not likely to let anyone lead you

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell

P S D A S D N O S A E S H A D

ITSECLECREATENI

NNAPHTAPTEXTUND

TEVROSITAMROFUN

EDEOORIVIRBEOAA RUDOIMTIIGTOVIC V T R F M V S S B T I M O O ISOOSSEEEUIDEKC

ERCPPRNMLDPEFNS W (D E I I I E T E L A A S P T O (A) R D L C S B A N C R A A N RTEDAISYMUTCGGE KAAZTEOOLEEISEV YEARIURTHEMEMSE DFACTSYMEMORIES

WONDERWORD

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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	2	1			4		
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8							9

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Vactordon's CHDOVII Answer

	Yesterday's Suduku Answer											
4	3	7	9	6	1	2	8	5				
2	9	8	7	5	4	3	6	1				
6	5	1	2	8	3	4	7	9				
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7	2	9	3	1	8	5	4	6				
3	4	6	5	7	2	9	1	8				
8	7	3	6	4	9	1	5	2				
9	6	4	1	2	5	8	3	7				
5	1	2	8	3	7	6	9	4				

3	7	9	6	1	2	8	5
9	8	7	5	4	3	6	1
5	1	2	8	3	4	7	9
8	5	4	9	6	7	2	3
2	9	3	1	8	5	4	6
4	6	5	7	2	9	1	8
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6	4	1	2	5	8	3	7
1	2	8	3	7	6	9	4
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Activities, Annual, Artist, Book, Bound, Candid, Committee, Cover, Activities, Afridai, Artist, Book, Bound, Carloth, Committee, Cover, Create, Data, Deadline, Department, Digital, Events, Facts, Faculty, Format, Grades, Interview, Involvement, Layout, Members, Memories, Pages, Proof, Published, Reader, Record, Save, School, Season, Sell, Size, Space, Sports, Students, Text, Theme, Time, Topics, Trips, Work, Year

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TITTIE, 1 OPICS, 11) PS, WOTG, 1 GCA

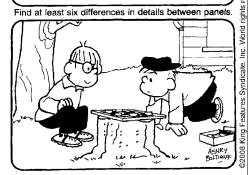
YESTER CARLY S ANSWER: Beans

We lake to by our requests TREASHIP We is the first over Wonderwood book containing only 20 x 20 pccases, with 7.5 of those large pacters. To
send check or money order for \$10.85 and piss \$3.55 pith 614-400 stall each U.S. funds only for the first volume \$150 pith for each additional virtication and Universal Prices Syndrodic. \$3.20 Jain St. Cassos Coly, No. 54111 or call to first end to \$2.55-5794, set 4680. Order universal regular

Treadment of Universal Prices Syndrodic. \$3.20 Jain St. Cassos Coly, No. 54111 or call to first end to \$2.55-5794, set 4680. Order universal regular

Treadment of Universal Prices Syndrodic.

HOCUS-FOCUS HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1.Boy's pants are black. 2. Box has been moved. 3. Garage is gone. 4. Shirt zipper is missing. 5. Tree stump is taller. 6. Boy's left arm can't be seen.

Wishing & Well®

5 D	7 S	3 E	5 O	8 M	7 M	6 M	7 O	2 M	4 A	6 A	4 S	5 N
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R	Р	Ε	R	R	L	0	1	V	F	Ε	Ε	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

MEN OF LETTERS

91 "— brillig . . .' 94 — Romeo 95 Hardware

components 99 "Heartbreak —" ('56 hit) 100 From the

101 Mideastern

103 Hornets

111 Take on 112 Purchased 114 Girl Scout

units 115 Overdramatk 116 Puckish 117 Roman

fountair

today 124 Medicine

96 Blood

ACROSS	49 — Dawn
1 Pay to play	Chong
5 "Forever —"	51 Singer
('47 film)	Vaughan
10 "Go, team!"	54 "Perelandr
13 Window	author
parts	56 "The Time
18 German	Machine"
river	author
19 "The Gong	60 Writer Eric
Show" guy	62 Game

21 Fit — fiddle 22 Jergens or fellow? 63 Actress Astaire 23 "The Shadow Alicia 64 "Cara over Innsmouth"

('65 song) 65 Hard to lift 66 Lesage's "Gil —" author 25 "In a Free 69 Zhivago's 71 CT hours 73 Charged 28 Most loathso 30 Ring official

31 Po land 35 Word form for "environ ment" 36 '62 Tornadoes author 82 Southern constella-tion smash 39 "The Nibelung-83 Cal. page 84 Tibetan

enlied," e.g. 42 Golfer Trevino 43 Omit 45 Wooden

monk
86 Do Europe
87 Gymnastics
event
90 Scoundrel
92 Columnist
Smith
93 Lamb and
pork

pork 97 Shining

98 "Chariotte's 143 Pants part Web" author 100 "Winnie-the- DOWN 39 Emulate Rembrandt 102 Broadcast e 104 — Tome 1015 Jitterbug dance ich 107 Mink's coat 108 Spruce 4 Respective Market Province Provinc 1 Pale
2 Wine valley
3 Hard to
believe
4 Amatory
5 Vigoda or
Burrows
6 Rock's
Fleetwood 108 Spruce 110 Use a poniard 113 Fairway accessory 114 "Cheerio!" freezing!"

8 Ages 9 "100 -115 Earphones 118 Maestro de 9 "100 —"
('69 film)
10 Sitarist
Shankar
11 Selling point
12 Crumby kid?
13 With
32 Down,
court sport
14 Business
dept. Waart 119 Proprietor danger 125 Fall birth-stone 129 "A Passage to India" dept. 15 Anne of "The

132 "The Code Daytrippers" 16 More of the Woosters" 136 Post or Bronte 137 Zsa Zsa's

sister
138 Explanatory
phrase
139 Corporate
VIP VIP
140 Panelist
Paul
141 — Tin Tin
142 Steakhouse
order 13 Down 33 Triangle parts 34 Indeed 37 Squirrel away

Indonesia 75 Races a morose
17 Egotist's
darling
20 — shift
24 Tub
26 Hold-up

man?
29 Fancy fabric
32 See
13 Down

75 Haces a jalopy
76 — Sainte Marie, MI
77 Up for — (available)
79 Eye color
80 Card game
81 "... — saw Elba" Fiba"

50 Architect

Corsica 57 Knot 58 Combat 59 Egyptian

61 Director

Egyptian Nobelist

Saarinen 52 Once more

53 Devastation 109 Wobble 55 Isle near 111 Take on

Adrian
67 Objective
68 — drum
70 Come clean
72 Terrible age?
74 Part of
121 Role for
72 Terrible age?
74 Part of
123 Persia,

honored 85 Mohammed 133 Oklahom 88 Actress Luft 134 Uproar 89 Jacket 135 Nationality material suffix

coprolalia? 9. LANGUAGE: What is a "Catch-22"? 10. NATURAL WORLD:

> white? lisup A .01 9. A illogical or absurd predicament lable swearing 8. A disorder characterized by uncontrol-A. A hearing by all judges of a court

What kind of bird is a bob-

ANATOMY: What are

succedaneous teeth also

2. LITERATURE: Who wrote

the thriller novel "The Day of

3. MUSIC: The autobiogra-

phy "Lady Sings the Blues"

was the story of what sing-

4. SCIENCE: What is a cni-

5. GEOGRAPHY: Where

does the Gulf of Oman lie?

6. BUSINESS: What is an

7. LEGAL: What does it

mean when a case is heard

8. PSYCHOLOGY: What is

known as?

the Jackal"?

docyst?

oligopoly?

"en banc"?

6. An industry dominated by a few sell-5. Between Oman and Iran other marine creatures. ${\bf 4.}\;{\bf A}$ venomous cell used by jellyfish and 3. Billie Holiday 2. Frederick Forsyth 1. Permanent teeth

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/USW61S

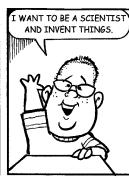


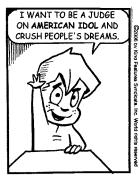
by Jeff Pickering **Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps The Spats

140







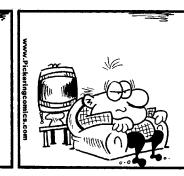


THEIR POISON IS NOT INJECTED LIKE THAT

OF A SNAKE, BUT FLOWS INTO THE WOUND AS THE LIZARD CHEWS ON ITS VICTIM... WHILE ITS BITE CAN OVERPOWER PREDATORS AND PREY, IT IS RARELY FATAL TO HUMANS

RECENT STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT THE





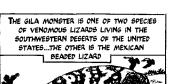
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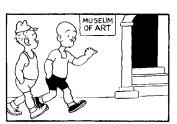
















CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25

5-Liner
5-Liner with picture
5-Liner with picture
5-Liner with picture

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position\$13.002nd position\$5.00Succeeding positions\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

 Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2-bedroom apartment with laundry facility. Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau behind Hakubotan. \$400/mo. Tel:483-1974

MISCELLANEOUS

Bud's Bar Boogie. Every Fri. & Sat. Starting @ 0930pm until. DJ w/ Sam Joyner. First Lady drink free after 0930pm

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 AUTO MECHANIC (THS 0054) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Nicolas M. Solomon, Jr. dba Advance Auto Center @ 233-2288. WHATZIT Solution: Running out of time.

1 COOK (THS 0055)

Salary:\$4.25/hour.Benefits:\$100.00 food; medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food and Catering dbaAuntie Mag's Catering @ 288-4799.

1 FOOD SERVER (THS 0056) Salary:\$3.55/hour.Benefits:\$100.00 food; medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Auntie

Mag's Food and Catering dba Auntie
Mag's Catering @ 288-4799.

1 WAREHOUSE WORKER

(MANAGER) (SM 0058)
Salary:\$6.35/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & worker's compensation. Contact: Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc. @322-6502.



Gordon's free throws lift Bulls to win



Ben Gordon made five clutch free throws down the stretch and Larry Hughes scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half against his former

team, rallying the Chicago Bulls to a 101-98 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday night.

The Bulls, with nothing to play for in the season's final weeks, came back from 17 points down in the second half to snap a six-game road losing streak.

Hughes, traded by the Cavaliers to Chicago at the Feb. 21 deadline, added nine assists and eight rebounds. Gordon scored 24 points and Luol Deng and Andres Nocioni had 15 each.

LeBron James scored 33 for Cleveland, but with the Cavaliers trailing 99-98, the NBA's leading scorer was short on a driving layup with 5.9 seconds left. Gordon was fouled and made two free throws with 3.4 seconds remaining to put the Bulls ahead by three.

Cleveland had one last chance, but after catching a pass from James, Daniel Gibson missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer before the horn.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 23 points for the Cavaliers, who are trying to nail down the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Trailing since early in the second quarter, the Bulls finally caught the Cavs and took the lead with 1:42 left when Gordon knocked down three free throws after being fouled by Delonte West while attempting a 3-pointer.

Gordon's free throws came shortly after Cavs center Ben Wallace blew a wide-open dunk. As the ball clanged off the iron, a loud gong inadvertently sounded in the arena, usually a sound effect reserved for one of Big Ben's blocks.

The Cavs had other chances in the final minutes, but Wally Szczerbiak missed a jumper in the final minute and James couldn't drop his drive down the lane with rookie Joakim Noah defending him.

Rockets 95, Trail Blazers 86

In Portland, Oregon, Tracy McGrady scored 26 of his 35 points in the second half as Houston beat Portland.

The win moved the Rockets to equal fifth with Phoenix in the Western Conference playoff race.

The Blazers have lost four straight.

Kings 110, Clippers 98

In Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin hit four 3-pointers while scoring 26 points as Sacramento downed Los Angeles.

The Kings avoided a fourgame season sweep by the struggling Clippers.

Sacramento led by 20 points in the third quarter.

Buckeyes capture NIT championship



NEW YORK (AP)—A year removed from a loss in the national title game, Ohio State

has a championship trophy to carry home. Nevermind that it's from the NIT. Jamar Butler and his buddies couldn't care less.

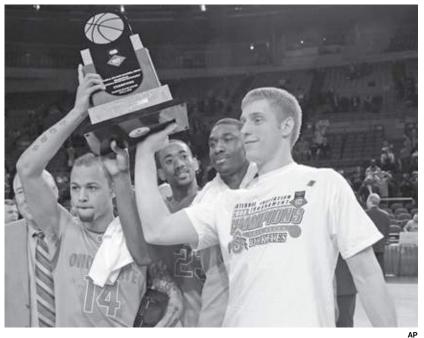
Butler had 19 points and eight assists in his final college game, leading the Buckeyes to a 92-85 win over Massachusetts on Thursday night and prompting the victory celebration inside Madison Square Garden that they couldn't have last year in Atlanta.

The Buckeyes lost to Florida in the Final Four, but never dwelled on a snub by the NCAA selection committee that kept them from playing for another trip there. They dominated each of their four opponents on the way to New York, then had enough at the end to withstand every run the Minutemen could muster.

"This is continuing a rebuilding of the program," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "It feels good after what we went through last season."

Kosta Koufos added 22 points in earning the tournament's most outstanding player award. Evan Turner finished with 20 for the Buckeyes (24-13), who reached the preseason NIT title game but were run out of the Garden by Texas A&M.

Ricky Harris scored 27 for UMass (25-11), hitting three 3-pointers in the closing minutes to help the Minutemen stay close.



Ohio State senior players hold up the championship trophy after Ohio State beat Massachusetts 92-85 in the final of basketball's NIT at Madison Square Garden in New York, Thursday, April 3, 2008.

The last of them made it 77-75 with 3:13 left, but Othello Hunter scored moments later and after Harris missed another 3 try at the other end, Butler drained a 3-pointer from the wing to give Ohio State some breathing room.

Turner took care of things from the free throw line over the final minute and a half, helping the Buckeyes wrap up the title.

"I've seen this team go through a lot," Matta said, moments before cutting down the net. "I'm happy for them." Etienne Brower, one of four players in the starting lineup who grew up in New York, had 17 points and 12 rebounds for UMass. Gary Forbes finished with 16 points and six assists, and Dante Milligan scored 14.

Massachusetts dominated Ohio State on the boards, outrebounding the bigger Buckeyes 49-37—and corralling a startling 30 on the offensive end. But UMass figured to be in trouble when the frenetic pace that it so enjoys kept up in the second half: Ohio State was 15-1 this sea-

son when scoring at least 70 points.

Massachusetts put a scare into Ohio State from the moment the last notes of the national anthem were played, rushing the entire length of the court to shake hands with its stoic, startled Big Ten opponent.

The Minutemen kept racing once the ball was thrown up, forcing three turnovers in the first 2 1/2 minutes and taking a 10-2 lead on a basket by Milligan.

The Buckeyes came right back, with Hunter scoring four of his 17 points to cap a 13-2 run and take a brief lead. But the Minutemen again edged ahead, and Forbes' 3-pointer with 3:50 left before halftime got the team's assistant coaches so animated the referees stopped to calm them down.

Fourteen busloads of people were ferried to New York from the UMass campus in Amherst, but they represented just a fraction of the partisan crowd. The school sold its allotment of tickets quickly, and appeared to have far more dressed in its slightly darker shade of red than its counterpart from Columbus.

Now they all have to sit back and wonder whether popular coach Travis Ford will still be in town. His name has popped up as a leading candidate for the opening at LSU, which could offer the former Kentucky player a chance to return to his roots in the SEC.

One fan, wearing a UMass jersey a couple rows behind their bench, held up a sign that pleaded, "Please Stay Travis." A couple rows down was another sign that read, "Travis Ford, Forget LSU.

Bengals cut receiver Henry after arrest



CINCINNATI (AP)— Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry lost his job while in jail awaiting arraignment on assault

charges on Thursday.

The Bengals cut him after his fifth arrest since 2005.

An attorney for Henry, 24, entered not guilty pleas for him after Henry was accused of punching an 18-year-old man in the face and breaking his car window with a beer bottle.

Municipal Court Judge Bernie Bouchard set bond at \$51,000 on charges of misdemeanor assault and criminal damaging. Noting Henry's previous arrests involving drugs, guns and alcohol, the judge called Henry "a one-man crime wave." He ordered electronic monitoring if Henry makes bail.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said it was premature to speculate on Henry's future in the league.

"It will be reviewed under the standard conduct policy," Aiello said.

Henry did not speak at the hearing. His lawyer, Perry Ancona, disputed the allegations in the complaint sworn by Gregory Meyer.

"We have a different set of facts we ask the court to consider," Ancona said.

Minutes before the arraignment, Ancona broke the news to Henry that he

had been released.

Bengals president Mike Brown said in a statement that Henry, an often brilliant receiver who would be in his fourth pro season this year, had forfeited his career with the club.

"His conduct can no longer be tolerated," Brown said.

Henry was suspended by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell for the first half of last season for repeatedly violat-

Del Rio signs extension with Jaguars

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)— Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio signed a five-year contract extension Thursday, a reward for winning his first playoff game.

Del Rio's salary was not disclosed, but it was believed to be a significant jump from the original five-year, \$6.5 million contract he signed in 2003.

The Jaguars were 11-5 last season, beat Pittsburgh in the first round of the playoffs and then ended the season with a 31-20 loss at New England.

"Clearly when I reflect back on the last five years, great things have happened," team owner Wayne Weaver said. "Under Jack's leadership, this franchise has continued to really make great progress."

Jacksonville is 45-35 in five years under Del Rio and has two playoff appearances, the first of which landed the coach a contract extension that paid him \$3 million annually the last two years.

Del Rio's deal could keep him in Jacksonville through the 2012 season.

"I look forward to building on what we have begun," Del Rio said

closed the gap on AFC powers New England and Indianapolis, especially after the team's offseason makeover. Del Rio hired four new assistant

Jacksonville right now."

a day before his 45th birthday. "I re-

ally do feel that there is something

very special taking place here in

Del Rio believes the Jaguars have

Del Rio hired four new assistant coaches, including defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, and parted ways with several aging veterans. Then he signed cornerback Drayton Florence and receivers Jerry Porter and Troy Williamson in free agency.

He also traded oft-injured, threetime Pro Bowl defensive tackle Marcus Stroud to Buffalo in exchange for two draft picks.

"We believe the arrow is up and we ought to be able to compete at the very highest level this year," Weaver said.

With Del Rio's deal done, Weaver said the Jaguars will turn their attention to getting quarterback David Garrard a new contract.

Garrard is entering the final year of a four-year deal worth about \$2 million annually.

Henry's agent, Marvin Frazier, thanked the Bengals for their patience.

"I just want to say that we're sorry this all happened, and we will continue to try to work to help Chris," Frazier said. "I do want to thank the Cincinnati Bengals—Mike Brown, (coach) Marvin Lewis and everyone—for all they have done to try to help this young man. Many of them have gone beyond the call of duty."

Under the NFL's tough new policy, Henry could face further suspensions even if he is not convicted of the latest charges. The Bengals were among the worst offenders in recent years, with 10 players arrested in a 14-month span from April 2006 and June 2007.

According to a complaint filed with authorities, Henry was identified by Meyer and a witness who claimed Henry punched Meyer on Monday, causing "visible injury." Henry then threw a beer bottle at Meyer's car, breaking the rear passenger window, according to the affidavit.

After an arrest warrant was issued, and Henry surrendered to police Wednesday night.

Henry has had a string of problems with police. He was in court last week after being ticketed for driving with expired Kentucky license plates. He paid \$149 in fines and court costs, according to the Municipal Court records.

He was ticketed a year ago for driving with a suspended license.

Henry was arrested four times between December 2005 and June 2006. He was accused of possession of marijuana in northern Kentucky, carrying a concealed weapon in Florida, drunken driving in Ohio and providing alcohol to minors in northern Kentucky. In that case, he served two days in jail in 2006 after pleading guilty to a charge of letting minors drink alcohol in a hotel room he had rented.

Following his suspension, Henry caught 21 passes for 343 yards and two touchdowns last season. He had nine touchdown catches in 13 games in 2006, when he was suspended by the league for two games and benched for another by Lewis because of misconduct.

The 6-foot-4, 200-pound receiver was a third-round draft pick from West Virginia in 2005.

ing the league's conduct policy. He also was suspended for two games in 2006.

"The Bengals tried for an extended period of time to support Chris and his potentially bright career," Brown said. "We had hoped to guide him toward an appropriate standard of personal responsibility that this community would support and that would allow him to play in the NFL. ... But those efforts end today, as we move on with what is best for our team."

Nady's 10th-inning single gives Pirates win over Braves



Nady drove in Nyjer Morgan with a 10th-inning single and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Atlanta Braves 4-3 on Thursday.

The Braves used seven pitchers after Mike Hampton's muchanticipated comeback was postponed by a chest injury suffered in pregame warmups. Jeff Bennett started in place of Mike Hampton, who was scratched before the first pitch.

Hampton's absence forced the Braves to get creative with their bullpen. Chris Resop started the 10th on the mound, moved to left field for a batter to set up a lefty-on-lefty matchup, and then went back to the mound. Once there, Resop (0-1) gave up Nady's go-ahead single.

The Pirates also have a new injury concern, after shortstop Jack Wilson left the game after straining his left calf while running out a game-tying single in the seventh inning.

Phillies 8, Nationals 7, 10 innings

At Philadelphia, Jesus Colome walked Jayson Werth to force in the winning run and Philadelphia overcame a 5-0, first-inning deficit to avoid opening the season with a three-game sweep at home for the third straight year.

Jimmy Rollins reached on an infield single to start the bottom of the 10th against Colome (0-1). Rollins advanced all the way to third on Shane Victorino's perfect sacrifice. After Chase Utley and Ryan Howard were inten-

tionally walked to load the bases, werth walked on four pitches.

Padres 3, Astros 2

In San Diego, Trevor Hoffman kept up his seesaw season when he earned the save in San Diego's victory over Houston.

Hoffman pitched a perfect ninth less than 24 hours after blowing the save and taking the loss by giving up four runs in the ninth inning of a 9-6 defeat, including Lance Berkman's two-out, three-run homer.

It was Hoffman's second save in three chances, extending his big league record to 526.

Cubs 6, Brewers 3

In Chicago, former closer Ryan Dempster was a winner in his return to the rotation, Aramis Ramirez homered and Alfonso Soriano had two RBIs for the Cubs.

Moved back to the leadoff spot after hitting second the first two games, Soriano drew a basesloaded walk in the fourth to force in the go-ahead run and added an RBI single in the sixth to snap a season-starting 0-for-11 slump.

Reds 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto allowed nothing more than Justin Upton's solo homer in seven innings, striking out 10 in an overpowering debut for Cincinnati.

Pitching in a steady rain, the 22-year-old right-hander struck out eight of his first 13 batters. His 10 strikeouts were the most by a Reds pitcher in his MLB debut since 1900, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.



Pittsburgh Pirates' Xavier Nady (22) celebrates with teammate Doug Mientkiewbicz after defeating the Atlanta Braves 4-3 in a baseball game on Thursday, April 3, 2008, in Atlanta.

Cardinals 3, Rockies 0

In St. Louis, Brad Thompson had a career-high six strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings to lead the Cardinals to the win.

St. Louis took two of three from the defending NL champions, who totaled five runs in the series.

Yankees 3, Toronto 2

In New York, Bobby Abreu's bloop single snapped an eighthinning tie, and the New York Yankees got a solid outing from Phil Hughes in a victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

After scoring 76 more runs than any other team in the major leagues last season, New York's powerful lineup managed only eight in its first three games against a fine Toronto pitching staff. Still, that was enough to take two of three in the series.

Joba Chamberlain (1-0) worked a scoreless inning and Mariano Rivera got three outs for his second save.

With the score tied at 2 on a 42-degree night, Melky Cabrera opened the eighth with a single off Brian Wolfe (0-1). Scott Downs bobbled Johnny Damon's sacri-

fice bunt for an error that allowed Damon to reach safely, and Derek Jeter advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt.

Abreu then dropped a soft single into center for his first RBI, making him 5-for-10 on the year.

Toronto put a runner on second with one out in the ninth, but Rivera retired Lyle Overbay and struck out Aaron Hill to end it.

Royals 4, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Zack Greinke allowed one run in seven innings, Alex Gordon and Mark Teahen homered and Kansas City completed a season-opening threegame sweep of Detroit.

Kansas City is 3-0 for the first time since winning its first nine games in 2003. Last year, the Royals didn't win a series until their sixth try, when they took two of three against Minnesota from April 20-22.

Detroit, with the secondhighest payroll in MLB at \$138.7 million (€89.3 million), scored only five runs in the series. The Tigers lost their first three games for the first time since 2003, when they began 0-9 and finished with an AL-record 119 losses.

Angels 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Torii Hunter homered leading off the seventh inning to lead Los Angeles in the final game of his return series to Minnesota.

Prior to his drive, Hunter had gone just 2-for-14 to start the season and admitted to being gassed from the ceremonies and warm welcomes he received from Twins fans who watched him star in center field for the previous nine years. Hunter signed a \$90 million, five-year deal with the Angels in the offseason.

White Sox 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, John Danks didn't allow a hit until Casey Blake singled leading off the sixth inning and Joe Crede hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth for the White Sox.

Cleveland scored 17 runs in winning the first two games of the series but managed two hits against four pitchers.

Scott, Wagner share Houston Open lead HUMBLE, fore his tee time and visited a pleby, the runner-up last year, Wagner teed off long after



HUMBLE, T e x a s (A P) — Adam Scott

went straight to the clubhouse for medical treatment after his first round at the Houston Open. Imagine what he would've shot if he was healthy. The defending champion took advantage of placid early conditions to shoot a course-record 9-under 63 on Thursday, his third straight spectacular round at the Tournament Course at Redstone.

Johnson Wagner matched Scott's 63 late in the day. The Amarillo, Texas, native also shared the first-round lead last year and shared the previous course record (64) with Bubba Watson.

Charley Hoffman was two behind the leaders after a 65 and Steve Stricker was three back. Phil Mickelson, one of several top players using Houston as a tuneup for next week's Masters, shot a 72 in the afternoon, when blustery wind produced higher scores.

Scott was too ill to worry about the weather, suffering since he arrived in Houston with a fever and swollen glands around his throat. He struggled to get out of bed before his tee time and visited a doctor after his round.

In between, he was practically flawless, reaching 17 of 18 greens in regulation and needing only 28 putts.

"I was just about conserving energy and thought about hitting the fairway and hitting the green and not having to work too hard," he said. "Fortunately, that's kind of how today went. I need to keep going that way."

If only he could feel this sick—and play this well—at Augusta.

"I'd like to stay like this for about another two weeks," he joked. "Maybe I shouldn't get the antibiotics."

Redstone seems to be tonic enough.

Scott was 22 under in his last 54 holes at Redstone and hasn't made a bogey since the 18th hole of his second round last year. He shot 65-66 on the weekend to earn a three-shot victory.

"I feel really comfortable on this golf course," Scott said. "A lot of the shots really fit my eye. I feel like I know where to hit it."

Last year, Scott became the sixth Australian to win the Houston Open and the second straight on this course, following Stuart Appleby in 2006. Ap-

pleby, the runner-up last year, shot a 70 on Thursday.

Starting on the back nine, Scott made a 55-foot birdie putt on his first hole, then added birdies on 12, 13 and 15. He holed a 10-foot birdie putt on the tough 18th to finish at 6-under 30, missing the tournament's nine-hole record by one shot.

"I didn't start the day out feeling like I was playing great," Scott said. "But certainly, as the round went on and the more birdies I made, the confidence came and the swings became better."

The wind was gusting by the middle of Scott's round, but he didn't seem to mind. He birdied Nos. 4 and 5 for the third straight round at Redstone, then made a 28-foot putt on the par-5 eighth.

Scott two-putted for par on his last hole to beat the course record set by Wagner and Watson in last year's third round. Scott and Wagner missed the tournament record by a stroke.

Wagner has missed six cuts in nine starts this year, his second on the tour, but his average score in five rounds at Redstone is 68.2.

"I don't think I've ever held another course record anywhere other than this place," he said. Wagner teed off long after Scott was finished. He noticed immediately that his course record was history.

"Walking down our first hole, I looked over at my caddie (Steve Hale), we saw the board," Wagner said. "I said, 'There it goes, it's gone.' He said, 'Well, the day's not over yet. You still have a chance.""

Wagner started on the back nine and was 6 under with two holes left. With his mother watching, Wagner knocked a 260-yard approach within a foot on the eighth and tapped in for an eagle. He was 5 under on his last five holes.

"Heard my mom whistling," he said. "She's got a loud whistle."

Hoffman shot a 31 on his front nine, then overcame a three-putt bogey on his 11th hole with birdies on two of his last three.

"Nice to see those when there hasn't been so much of that this year," said Hoffman, currently 105th in the money list.

Stricker was 1-over after five holes, then birdied six of his next nine, finishing the stretch by holing a bunker shot on the par-4 5th. He added a birdie on the par-5 8th to secure his sixth sub-70 score in his last seven rounds at Redstone.

WVU, Rodriguez lawyers meet in court

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—Rich Rodriguez may present evidence to try

to prove his claim he was fraudulently induced to sign a coaching contract with West Virginia that included a \$4 million buyout clause he now refuses to pay.

Monongalia County Circuit
Judge Robert Stone granted
key victories Thursday for
both sides in a two-hour pretrial hearing Rodri-

trial hearing. Rodriguez was not present at the hearing.

The new Michigan

coach told reporters after practice in Ann Arbor that he hadn't yet heard the details of the hearing.

Rodriguez resigned in December after seven seasons with the Mountaineers to take the coaching job at Michigan, where he's also agreed to a \$4 million buyout, and took some of his coaches and recruits with him.

WVU sued Rodriguez Dec. 27, sparking a public feud marked by accusations of lying, destruction of documents and broken promises. The case was briefly sent to federal court, where a judge

decided it should be heard in state court.

WVU claims Rodriguez owes the full amount he agreed to pay in his contract.

Rodriguez, however, claims he signed that agreement under false pretenses, expecting certain verbal promises from the administration to be kept. They included the reduction or elimination of the buyout clause—a promise WVU denies.

A key motion by WVU was granted, involving the request for any documents related to Rodriguez'

hiring and contract discussions with Michigan. The documents could help WVU prove it was Rodriguez who broke the contract and did so because he wanted to—not because WVU forced him to quit by failing to honor verbal promises.

Though both sides had hoped to conclude the case by midsummer, when practice for football season resumes, Stone said that was unlikely. The judge declined to rule on a motion to speed up the trial, instead ordering the two sides to come up with a case management plan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Boston	60	15	.800	_	
Philadelphia	38	37	.507	22	
Toronto	38	37	.507	22	
New Jersey	31	44	.413	29	
New York	20	55	267	40	

Southeast Division 47 28 38 37 y-Orlando Washington .507 .467 Atlanta 40 .373 19 .173 34 13 62 Miami

Central Division 53 21 .716 _ 42 34 .553 12 31 44 .413 22 1/2 30 45 .400 23 1/2 26 48 .351 27 x-Cleveland Milwaukee

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division New Orleans 52 22 52 22 52 23 50 25 San Antonio .693 .667 Houston Memphis 20 55 .267 32 1/2

Northwest Division 50 26 46 29 38 38 Denver .613 .500

3 1/2 12 30 Portland 19 55 .257 17 58 .227 Seattle 32 1/2 **Pacific Division** L.A. Lakers Phoenix 50 25 Golden State 45 30 Sacramento 35 40

.667 .600

L.A. Clippers 23 53 .303 28 1/2 x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games Chicago 101, Cleveland 98 Sacramento 110, L.A. Clippers 98 Houston 95, Portland 86

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	1	.750	_
New York	2	1	.667	1/2
Baltimore	1	1	.500	1
Tampa Bay	1	1	.500	1
Toronto	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Central Div	risio	n		
Kansas City	3	0	1.000) _

Cleveland .333 .250 .000 Chicago **West Division** Los Angel Seattle .333 1 1/2 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Washington	3	1	.750	_
New York	2	1	.667	1/2
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Florida	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Atlanta	1	3	.250	2

Central Division .667 Cincinnati Milwaukee .667 .667 Pittsburgh .667

Chicago Houston .250 **West Division** San Diego Los Angeles .750 .667 1/2 San Francisco 1 .333 .333

Arizona Yesterday's Games Chicago White Sox 2, Cleveland 1 Kansas City 4. Detroit 1 L.A. Angels 5, Minnesota 4 N.Y. Yankees 3, Toronto 2 Philadelphia 8, Washington 7, 10 innings St. Louis 3, Colorado 0 Chicago Cubs 6, Milwaukee 3 San Diego 3, Houston 2 Pittsburgh 4, Atlanta 3, 10 innings

Tampa Bay at Baltimore, ppd., Rain **HOUSTON OPEN SCORES**

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Scores from Thursday's first round of the U.S. PGA Tour's \$5.6 million (€3.61 million) Houston Open on the par-72 (36-36), 7457yard Redstone Golf Club course:

Adam Scott	33-30	63
Johnson Wagner	30-33	63
Charley Hoffman	34-31	65
Steve Stricker	32-34	66
Briny Baird	34-33	67
Geoff Ogilvy	35-32	67
Dean Wilson	33-34	67
Steve Elkington	35-32	67
Brett Quigley	34-34	68
Justin Leonard	34-34	68
Omar Uresti	36-32	68
Bubba Watson	33-35	68
Jesper Parnevik	35-34	69

J.J. Henry Dudley Hart 32-37 Alejandro Canizares 35-34 35-34 Nicholas Thompson Jose Maria Olazabal Davis Love III 35-34 35-34 Bart Bryant Lucas Glover Pat Perez 33-36 Martin Laird Stuart Appleby 37-33 33-37 Craig Barlow John Mallinger 37-33 34-36 Michael Letzig Mark Hensby 37-33 35-35 Rod Pampling Kevin Sutherland Scott Sterling 33-37 34-36 Jeff Overton 36-35 Charles Howell III Padraig Harrington 36-35 Billy Andrade 34-37 35-36 Tom Byrum Bob Estes Marc Turnesa 36-35 37-34 Parker McLachlin Mathew Goggin 38-33 35-36 John Riegger Shaun Micheel Rich Beem 34-37 Robert Garrigus 33-38 John Merrick Y.E. Yang Michael Allen 37-34 37-34 Billy Mayfair 35-37 Rocco Mediate Aaron Baddeley Hunter Mahan 36-36 35-37 Joe Durant Tommy Armour III Stephen Leaney 38-34 Marco Dawson Nick Flanagan Michael Sim 35-37 David Lutterus 36-36 Brandt Jobe 38-34 Shane Bertsch Jeff Maggert Tim Herron Phil Mickelson 37-35 35-37 J.L. Lewis Jeff Quinney 35-37 Fredrik Jacobson Richard Johnson Jon Mills 38-34 40-32 Roland Thatcher Matt Jones Kevin Streelman 36-36 Scott McCarron Steve Allan 35-38 37-36 Cameron Beckman Trevor Immelman Charles Warren 37-36 37-36 Carlos Franco James Driscoll 37-36 39-34 Tim Wilkinson Ryan Armour Fred Couples 37-36 35-38 Chad Campbell Brett Wetterich J.P. Hayes 37-36 37-36 Dustin Johnson Jeev M. Singh **Brad Adamonis** 35-38 Peter Lonard Troy Matteson Olin Browne 37-37 39-35 Paul Goydos **Brett Rumford** 37-37 37-37 Jin Park Lonny Alexander Nathan Green K.J. Choi 37-37 36-38 Joe Ogilvie Ben Crane 35-39 36-38 Tripp Isenhour Cody Freeman Justin Bolli 39-35 Andres Romero Nick O'Hern Jay Williamson 37-38 38-37 Vaughn Taylor Robert Allenby Frank Lickliter II 39-36 40-35 Angel Cabrera Eric Axley Kenneth Ferrie 38-37 Louis Oosthuizen Jim McGovern Kevin Na 38-38 76 77 77 78 78 78 78 78 78 79 80 80 80 36-41 Mathias Gronberg George McNeill Patrick Sheehan 38-39 38-39 John Daly Jimmy Walker Alex Cejka 40-38 Jose Coceres Chris Stroud 41-37 40-39 John Rollins Chad Collins 40-40 40-40 Kyle Thompson 41-39

By The Associated Press

42-43

LOCAL SCORES

Blaine McCallister

FMI Basketball Standings					
Shirley's Coffee Shop	2	0			
Advance X-Terminators	1	0			
OľAces	1	0			
TASI Tours Giants	1	1			
GEC Pawnship	1	1			
Price Costco	0	1			
MIGS	0	1			
SMF-Seabridge	0	2			

Rice lifts Purefoods past Magnolia after 2 OTs



Philip-

pines—Not even the collective effort of Magnolia proved enough to negate the individual explosiveness of Purefoods import Darius Rice.

The nephew of football legend Jerry Rice knocked in 56 big points in his Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) debut, including a coast-to-coast drive to the basket that lifted the Giants to a pulsating 127-126 double OT victory over the Beverage Masters in a thrilling 2008 Smart Fiesta Conference game Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-10 former University of Miami stalwart went 6-of-17 from three-point range, the last of which was a stepback trey in the final 1:40 of regulation play that tied the game at 101 and set the stage for the exciting finish.

The 56-point output of the 25-year-old Rice is the biggest game in the league since former Best Import Derek Brown finished with 57 points for Sta. Lucia in a 99-120 losing cause to San Miguel Beer on April 25, 2004 in the inaugural Fiesta Conference.

"Darius Rice is as good as advertised," were the first words uttered by a beaming Ryan Gregorio, the Purefoods coach, after the game that took 58 minutes to complete. "I've seen some amazing shots tonight, including a three-pointer that I think was a low percentage shot, but thank God, it went in."

Rice already showed portent of things to come when he finished with 27 points at the half, though the Giants trailed, 45-54.

"That's all?," asked the sensational import when asked if he was aware of his final output, the second all-time highest output in the Fiesta Conference since Brown's 57 and the highest output by a debuting import since

individual score registered in a Jerod Ward had 61 for Mobiline in a 93-87 win over Barangay Ginebra in his first game in the 2001 Commissioner's Cup.

"Honestly, I was not thinking about my score. I'm just playing in there and trying to help the team win," added the second cousin of former NBA hotshot Glenn Rice.

Following the win, Purefoods finds itself in a four-way tie on top with Coca-Cola, Red Bull, Air21 and reigning all-Filipino champion Sta. Lucia.

James Yap added 20 points for the Giants, Enrico Villanueva added 16 and 11 rebounds in his first game with his new team while Kerby Raymundo had 11 markers, but missed a potential game-winning reverse layup with four seconds left in the first overtime and

the score tied at 116-116.

The loss was a bitter pill to swallow for the Beverage Masters, who led by as many as 14, 65-51, early in the third.

What cost Magnolia the game, especially late in the overtime periods, were several turnovers, two of which Dondon Hontiveros committed in succession.

Purefoods 127 - Rice 56, J Yap 20, Villanueva 16, Raymundo 11, Simon 10, Lanete 6, R. Yap 5, Salvador 2, Yee 1.

Magnolia 126 – Hontiveros 29, Watkins 23, Seigle 19, Tugade 13, Pingris 12, Cortez 11, Ildefonso 10, Calaguio 5, Racela 2, Pena 2, Tolomia 0.

Quarterscores: 24-27; 45-54; 75-82; 108-108 (reg); 116-116 (1st OT); 127-126 (2nd OT). (www.pba.com.ph)

Erratum

Organizers would like to correct that Team Survivors of the Major Division of the Saipan Little League are sponsored by Martha's Store. Organizers would like to apologize for the mix-up.

TINIAN

From Page 28

only two matches went four games, as Pobre managed to win one versus Luke Lu and amazingly also against Ma, who went on to win the singles championship.

It was a shaky campaign in the second round though for Tinian A as they surrendered two matches against Tinian B but nonetheless won in convincing fashion, 7-2.

Liang Wei Bin shocked Ma with an 9-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-9 victory and then Charlie Cheng got the better of Robin Lu in straight sets, 14-12, 11-6, 11-9. Bright Lu was the third member of the Tinian B team.

Hisamitsu Hamamoto, Carlos Gumataotao, and Edmund Ho of the Guam Amateur Table Tennis Association also didn't had a chance against Tinian A in their match-up.

Ma and the Lu brothers gave Guam a rude welcome by winning 8-1, with the U.S. territory's lone win courtesy of Hamamoto who beat Robin Lu, 4-11, 15-11, 11-1, 8-11, and 11-4.

It was the first time the southernmost chain of the Marianas joined the goodwill series.

Tinian A encountered its biggest challenge of the day when it tangled with fellow powerhouse Saipan A in what turned out to be the finals.

The climactic ending, however, was not to be as Tinian A quickly raced to a 5-0 lead. Luke Lu started things off with a sweep of Su Yong Dong, 12-10, 11-3, 11-7. Ma duplicated the feat by dominating 2006 Micronesian Games women's gold medalist Jean Shi, 11-8, 11-8, 13-11. Robin Lu then made it three sweeps in a row by dumping Budhi Gurung, 11-4. 11-2, 11-8.

Ma had trouble against Su but won in four sets, 11-6, 11-6, 10-12, 11-5, while Gurung gave Luke Lu some fits, but won eventually lost, 9-11, 3-11, 11-5, 8-11.

Shi got Saipan belatedly going with a 11-5, 11-4, 11-7 win over Robin Lu. Saipan then proceeded to win two of the final three head-to-heads. Su beat Robin Lu, 11-7, 6-11, 11-8, 11-4 and Shi discarded Luke Lu, 11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10. Ma, meanwhile, beat Gurung, 5-11, 11-7, 11-2, 11-4,

The 2-1 ending, however, only managed to make the final score a little more palatable: Tinian A over Saipan A, 6-3.

While Saipan A finished runner-up, Guam took third and Tinian B was fourth. Saipan B wound up in last place.

Paddlers from the CNMI's gambling capital thus successfully defended the goodwill championship it won in April 2007 when only two teams representing Tinian and Saipan battled for the championship.

In the singles competition held the following day, Ma got the better of Shi in four sets, 12-10, 5-11, 11-8, 13-11. Su, meanwhile, salvaged third place with a 13-15, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8 victory over Luke Lu.

In the doubles also held last Sunday. Ma and Liang teamed up to defeat Shi and Su, 7-12, 12-10, 11-4, 11-5. Luke and Robin Lu settled for third place.

single lane traffic and always

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

Martin Moreno overcame a slow start to lead the Bankers' scoring, finishing with 26 points, while veteran guard Ed Palma contributed 21 markers.

Warren Villegas, Noel Delos Santos, and Sonny Ebuen scored 19, 13, and 11 each.

Manuel Cacho and Sonny Rañiola combined for 27 points in the second half as they tried to rally the Pawnbrokers' back from several double-digit leads. They both finished with 29 points, while Johnny Badilles and Casabuena netted 11 and 10 markers.

First Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop 92 -Santos 29, Esdrelon 21, Rasa 12, Guiab 10, Sanciangco 10, Mercurio 7, Marasigan 3.

GEC Pawnshop 88 - Wallace 22, E. Olivos 16, Ajoste 12, Cacho 10, Wesley 9, Palma 8, Casabuena 5, Palero 4, Celes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-21, 34-49, 61-70, 92-88.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula

Second Game

Bank of Saipan 105 - Moreno 26, Palma 21, Villegas 19, Delos Santos 13, Ebuen 11, Darag 9, Lopez 2, Abadilla 1.

GEC Pawnshop 95 - Cacho 29, Rañola 29, Badilles 11, Casabuena 10, Peleño 4, Buenabajo 2, Culala 2, Olivos 2, Peredo 2, Villafuerte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-12, 49-42, 75-61, 105-95.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Arnold Mesa.

The Ladies Flight will adopt dou-

ble Peoria format. All Top 3 placers in the five flights will also be awarded with handsome trophies as well as one-month free golf courtesy of Marianas Country

NMITF

From Page 28

safety tips for riders and motorists in the CNMI. The NMITF is organizing the race since they want to increase public motorist awareness on sharing the road with cyclists.

"Any person riding a bicycle has all of the same rights and responsibilities as a driver of any other vehicle and sharing the road with cyclists requires only a little care and patience from motorists," said NMITF secretary Lewie Tenorio, in an email.

"With the community's help we can make Saipan and the [CNMI] a cycle-safe and bikefriendly [islands].'

Cyclists are also advised to observe the basic rules while riding: Safety first where at all times ride on the side of the road as you would when driving a car and as much as possible form a single line especially when on

follow the road rules. Helmets are required for all

riders and bring your own hydration such as water, sports drinks, or power gels. Adults must accompany riders 16-andunder in the entire route. All riders must start and com-

plete the ride with the group they selected at the start of the ride. Each group must have at least one leader. Pack leaders will also be assigned before the start of the ride.

SGA

From Page 28

483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, or secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052.

In related news, SGA is encouraging members to participate in today's HANMI Golf Classic at the Marianas Country Club. It will have a show time of 6:30am and a shotgun start of 7:30am.

As in years past, cash prizes

await the Top 3 winners in five flights-Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies. First place goes home with \$500, second \$300, and third

\$200. All flights save for the Ladies will be based on gross scores.

Club. (Mark Rabago)



Nady's 10th-inning single gives Pirates win over Braves

Xavier Nady drove in Nyjer Morgan with a 10th-inning single and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Atlanta Braves 4-3 on Thursday.



Buckeyes capture NIT championship

A year removed from a loss in the national title game, Ohio State has a championship trophy to carry home. Nevermind that it's from the NIT. Jamar Butler and his buddies couldn't care less.



28 SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tinian paddlers top goodwill tourney anew

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

inian table tennis players reasserted their dominance in the sport last weekend, beating teams from neighboring Guam and Saipan to win the 9th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Mark Ma and brothers Luke and Robin Lu—collectively known as Tinian A—lost only four games in 40 headto-head matches against two teams

from Saipan, Guam, and their sister team, Tinian B, en route to winning the team competition of the tournament last Saturday.

Tinian A started its campaign with a 9-0 sweep of Saipan B, which was made up of Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steven Lim, Con Pobre, and Peter De Leon.

So overpowering was Tinian A that See TINIAN on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian A's Mark Ma receives his singles championship trophy after winning the division over Saipan A's Jean Shi during the awards ceremony of the 9th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held last weekend at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. Ma is flanked by Steven Lim, MATTA president, and Alfred Yue, Tinian ping-pong club official.



The Tinian A and Tinian B teams pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the 9th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held last weekend at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.



"The Biggest, Baddest Sunday Fun Ride" of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation will take place tomorrow start-

NMITF invites cyclists to Sunday ride

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com



The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation is inviting male and female cyclists of all levels to

bring out their mountain or road bikes and join them in tomorrow's ride.

Dubbed "The Biggest, Baddest Sunday Fun Ride," the meeting place will be at Micro Beach Pavilion at 6am. The cyclists will leave head back to Micro Beach.

Micro Beach at 6:30am and head north to Suicide Cliff.

The event is divided into three groups varying in speeds. Group 1 will travel at speeds of 10 miles per hour from Micro Beach to Banzai Cliff where they will rest and wait for the other group before going back to Micro Beach.

Group 2 will travel at 15mph from Micro Beach to Bird Island and will proceed to the Grotto and Banzai Cliff, wait for the other groups and

The last Group will have speeds of 20mph from Micro Beach to Suicide Cliff, go down to Bird Island and proceed to Banzai Cliff where they will rest and wait for the other group before returning to Micro Beach.

The Sunday Fun Ride is one of NMITF's programs for 2008 and it will be held every Sunday except on April 13 to give way for the Saipan leg of the Jazy Cup Race.

This is also NMITF's way of promoting the sport of cycling and basic See NMITF on Page 27

Shirley's edges GEC in FMI league

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop had its five start-

ers finishing in double figures in their 92-88 win over GEC Pawnshop in the Inaugural 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. It was a sorry loss for the

Pawnbrokers as they led for most of the game before allowing John Santos to take over for

the Foodmakers in the final 10 minutes of the match.

Santos, who went scoreless in the second quarter, erupted for 10 points in the fourth period including backto-back 3-pointers that highlighted Shirley's comeback from several double-digit spreads.

The win was the second in as many games for the Foodmakers after its opening day 120-112 win over SMF-

Seabridge on March 14. They also grabbed the early lead breaking from a four-way logjam with their victims, Advance X-Terminators, and Ol'Aces.

The loss dropped the Pawnbrokers, which scored a 111-76 demolition of MIGS in their March 30 debut, to a tie with TASI Tours Giants from

fourth to fifth places with similar 1-1 records.

Santos finished with 29 points, while Elmer Esdrelon added 21 with Steve Rasa end-

ing up with 12 markers. Junar Guiab and Ryan Sanciangco had 10 apiece.

CNMI National player Mark Wallace paced the Pawnbrokers with 22 points, while Emil Olivos and Omar Ajoste chipped in 16 and 12 each.

Bank of Saipan handed the Pawnbrokers a double whammy when it scored a 105-95 triumph in the 40and-above division.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 27

SGA April Ace tomorrow

The Saipan Golf Association will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, April 6, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort

Check-in time for the club's fourth monthly competition of the year is 7am with tee time set an hour and 30 minutes later at 8:30am.

Veteran golfers Mariano Fajardo and Joe Sablan and homerun menace Ned Norita have bragging rights for the

first three months of SGA's season as they secured the January, February, and March Ace titles, respectively.

> Slots are available for 24 players and SGA said first players to show up early, will definitely be the first to roll the grounds.

For more information about SGA's April Ace of the Month Tournament, call SGA president Martin Sablan at

See SGA on Page 27